THE VOICE of the PEOPLE:

A COLLECTION of

ADDRESSES to His MAJESTY,

AND

Inſtructions to Members of Parliament by their Conſtituents,

UPON THE

UNSUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT of the preſent WAR both at LAND and SEA;

And the ESTABLISHMENT of a

NATIONAL MILITIA.

Recommending, in particular, an Enquiry into the Cauſe of the late great Loſs which this Nation has ſuſtained, in the Capture of MINORCA by the French.

WITH

A PREFACE in Defence of the ADDRESSES, as conſtitutional, decent, and neceſſary.

"And he hearkened to the Voice of Iſrael: and ſaid to one "who had charge over the city; go through the midſt of "the city, and ſet a MARK upon the foreheads of the "men that ſigh, and that cry for all the abominations that "be done in the midſt thereof. And to others he ſaid; go "ye after him through the city, and ſmite; let not your "eye ſpare, neither have ye pity: but come not near any "man upon whom is the MARK. My princes [miniſters] "ſhall no more oppreſs my people."

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Thurſday December 9th, 1756.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE publiſher thinks it proper to declare, that the paper called "Inſtructions to the "right honourable Lord Down and Sir Conyers "Darcy, Knight of the Bath, repreſentatives in "parliament for the County of York," and inſerted in page 34, is ſpurious, and an impoſition upon the public: but the fraud was not diſcovered ſoon enough to exclude it from this collection, which was intended to be a genuine memorial of the complaints, expectations, and reſolutions of the people in the preſent critical ſtate of public affairs in this kingdom.

BRITISH MUSEUM

*PREFACE.

MANY arguments have been used to shew, that the addresses on occasion of the late disgraceful loss of MINORCA, *are unconstitutional, indecent, and unnecessary. But without giving up the principles of our present establishment, they cannot be censured as unconstitutional. Our form of government having no other end than the security of our public and private rights, every act of the government, or of the people, is constitutional, which tends to the same end, and pursues it by means consistent with the form and spirit of our constitution; and every act of the government, or of the people, which violates, or tends to violate, our public or private rights, or to defeat the means of supporting them, is unconstitutional. But have the complaints of the people, which are sent up to the throne, a tendency to violate any rights of the people, or any of those rights which are vested in the crown for the sake of the people? or do the people, by complaining, assume a right which they have not? Whoever maintains this doctrine against all complaints in general, mistakes our constitution; whoever maintains it, against these complaints in particular, must shew, that the complaints are irregular, and the language of them indecent.*

IT is said, "that the address of parliament is the only regu-"lar address from the people." The people have, indeed, authorised their representatives in parliament to make laws, grant money, and support their rights. But they have not transferred their rights themselves, nor alienated the sense of feeling; nor given up the important right of expressing what they feel: and the sense of parliament was very lately in-

fluenced

* The reasoning contained in this preface, is taken from a pamphlet lately published, intitled, *Considerations on the Addresses lately presented to his majesty, on occasion of the loss of* MINORCA. *In a letter to a member of parliament. Printed for M. Cooper, in Pater-noster-row*; which is distinguished by extensive knowledge, strength of argument, elegance of expression, and uncommon decency and candour.

fluenced and changed by the ſenſe of the nation, with reſpect to the law for qualifying Jews to be naturaliſed. The gracious reception, however, which the addreſſes from the people have met with, ſufficiently obviates all arguments againſt their regularity.

BUT it will be aſked, "As the number of addreſſes is "very ſmall, how ſhall we gather from them that the diſcon-"tent is general?" The addreſſes themſelves are not the only evidence of diſcontent. Men of all ranks and capacities, of different opinions and different intereſts, will concur in telling you, that the grievance of the nation is of ſuch a nature, that nothing can be ſaid to magnify, and nothing need be ſaid to explain it. We have loſt our figure in the eyes of Europe, together with a valuable poſſeſſion; and it is univerſally apprehended, that our ALL is in danger, and therefore the preſervation of it not to be left in the ſame hands that have conducted us to the precipice. When this is the caſe, is it a proper anſwer to a complaint, to enquire into the regularity of it? and when every individual lifts up his voice, is it a time to aſk, how the voice of the nation ſhall be known? Was the voice of the nation to be gathered only from the number, and not from the ſubject of the addreſſes, how eaſy would it be for a factious miniſter to perplex this ſort of evidence to his maſter, by procuring counter-addreſſes from corporations, who act under an influence foreign to that of their own judgment. If then the addreſſes ſpeak the ſenſe of the nation, upon a national point, they ſtand juſtified with reſpect to the conſtitution.

BUT theſe addreſſes are further charged with "indecency "and diſreſpect to his majeſty."

THE loſs of MINORCA muſt have appeared to his majeſty in a more melancholy view, than to any of his ſubjects. He had declared war in confidence that his ſervants would leave nothing undone to make him victorious over his enemies; that their care would extend to all parts of his dominions; that the enemy's deſigns would be diſcovered by the earlieſt intelligence, and prevented by the wiſeſt counſels, or defeated by the moſt vigorous meaſures. Immenſe ſupplies were granted by parliament for this purpoſe; the Britiſh navy was never ſo formidable; and, inſtead of fearing a diſgraceful loſs, there was room to hope for a deciſive national advantage. From this diſpoſition of the king, thus ſupported by parliament, we may judge how his royal mind was agitated, when it appeared, that the enemy had been encouraged to invade MINORCA by

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the known weakneſs of the garriſon of Fort St. Philip; that we had no fleet in the Mediterranean, when the deſcent was made; that the fleet which was ſent, was inferior to the enemy's; that it was ſent too late, under a commander who had not been tried; that it executed nothing; and that the brave governor of the garriſon, for want of ſuccours, was obliged to ſurrender.

HITHERTO then the addreſſes ſtand clear of the charge of indecency: the king's own ſentiments are not contradicted by them; and the condolence which they expreſs, implies his majeſty's character as the common father and protector of his people.

BUT we are told, that "to call for vengeance upon thoſe "who have not done their duty, is preſcribing to the crown; "and expreſſing a jealouſy, that full juſtice will not be "done."

IF indeed Mr. Byng was the only object of this petition for juſtice, it might be ſaid to imply an apprehenſion, that the miſconduct laid to his charge would be connived at. But Mr. Byng is not mentioned, and barely hinted at in the addreſſes. It was not the intereſt of the public, however it may be the intereſt of individuals, to condemn him unheard: his trial muſt take its regular courſe; and there is no very great room to apprehend that the public will be diſſatisfied with the iſſue of it. But the perſons complained of are not ſo eaſily called to a trial as Mr. Byng; and the complaints are in a great meaſure foreign to him. He cannot be anſwerable for the deſerted ſtate of the garriſon, before he was ſent to relieve it; nor can he be expected to account for the unſeaſonable time of his departure, nor for the inferiority of his fleet. If he ſhould appear to have been unfit for the command, he may ſuffer for having undertaken it. But if he was not a perſon of diſtinguiſhed courage, as well as fidelity, which is not yet evident, it is unaccountable, why he was ſelected for the command of a fleet, which at the moſt was ſo nicely proportioned to the ſtrength of the enemy, that a victory muſt have been effected either by chance or by uncommon courage. The caſe was yet worſe at fort St. Philip. There was confeſſedly the higheſt military merit; but ſo infamouſly neglected, that the garriſon was barely ſtrong enough to ſhew that the fort was not offered to the enemy, however the enemy might think himſelf invited by the condition of it.

THE mention of MINORCA *was neither indecent nor impertinent. The independency of this iſland diſappeared,*

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when foreign ſuccours were imported for our defence: and it was, therefore, pertinent to ſubjoin to a complaint of the defenceleſs ſtate of that part of his majeſty's dominions which is already cut off, a deſire to ſee the kingdom defended by thoſe who are moſt intereſted and beſt entitled to defend it. and it was decent in ſubjects to offer to defend their king.

The ſubject then of the addreſſes ſtands clear of the charge of indecency; and the language, if candidly conſidered, will appear equally unexceptionable.

They are now offered in one view to the public; and the public will ſee, that they abound with ſuch profeſſions of loyalty, that no enemy to the king's perſon or government could, with any conſiſtency, ſign them. His majeſty's paternal care of his people, his impartial juſtice, his ſtudy to promote the welfare and honour of his kingdoms, and his great and martial ſpirit, are, in all theſe addreſſes, proclaimed with zeal, and acknowledged with gratitude.

How is the language with reſpect to miniſters? Not injurious, nor opprobrious, nor perſonal, for no particular miniſter is hinted at. There is great amazement expreſſed, that a deſign ſhould be unprevented, though it was not unexpected; that an attempt ſo weak and raſh as that of the enemy, ſhould be converted into victory and glory; whilſt this nation is covered with reproach and diſhonour. It cannot be denied, that the attempt was expected; and all Europe knows, that it was neither prevented nor defeated. Is it indecent to expreſs amazement at this, and to lay our fears and wonder before the throne, the refuge of diſtreſſed intimidated ſubjects? not intimidated by the enemy; but by the power of thoſe, who might have prevented this evil; who left the iſland defenceleſs, and the Mediterranean without a Britiſh fleet. Theſe are plain facts, which, without the help of language, amount to ſtrong accuſations. Nor did the natural conſequence to be drawn from theſe facts, need any ſupport from vehemence of expreſſion. It is therefore only ſubmitted to his majeſty, to direct an inquiry, to enforce the puniſhment of thoſe, who ſhall be found guilty of giving up the public intereſt and honour, and to withdraw his royal countenance and protection from all, who have not at heart the ſafety and happineſs of Great-Britain. Neither the power, nor the character of a good miniſter can be affected, if all theſe petitions ſucceed. If any miniſter is conſcious of having made no miſrepreſentations to his maſter; of having applied the millions which have been granted, purely and judiciouſly, to national purpoſes; of having undertaken no more than he had abilities to execute; of having

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used the utmost dispatch, in all matters relating to the service; of having removed none from his master's service, who were eminently qualified; of having advanced none, without other qualifications than merely their dependance upon himself; and of having been intent upon objects of more immediate consequence to the nation, as well as more practicable, than the perpetuity of his own power, and the unnatural support of his particular friends; he is not stigmatized by these addresses.

BUT "all this," it will be said, "is inflammatory." It is not more inflammatory than the facts were, before any address was presented. There is a complaint, indeed, of mismanagement and delays in the defence of his majesty's possessions in AMERICA, the object of the present war, and the principal source of the wealth and strength of these kingdoms; but not a word is said of the progress and toleration of the French incroachments during the peace. These and some other points, which are full as inflammatory as the loss of MINORCA, are passed over in silence, to avoid even the appearance of exaggeration.

THE charge of sedition is a trite one, against all public complaints. The best foundation for the charge is, to shew that the complaint is groundless. The friends of the government are complaining, not of imaginary evils; nor of direct oppression; nor of such calamities, as no government can remedy; nor of a misfortune which affects only one set of men, or one part of the kingdom: but of an event which dishonours our arms, and wounds our trade; and of those who certainly foresaw it; and, if we may judge, from the money granted, and the armaments raised, had power to prevent it. Is it seditious to lay this before the throne? A good minister will not think it so; and a bad one would have no right to cast the reproach; for if there be any truth in history, or if any argument may be drawn from experience, there is not a more seditious character in a kingdom, than a bad minister.

I HAVE hitherto endeavoured to do justice to the addresses, by shewing, that the constitution is not violated; that the king is not disrespected; and that the nation is not inflamed by them: the only point remaining is to shew the necessity of this step.

THE idea of necessity in the case is, that they were meant to answer one or more constitutional ends, which could not be answered without them. The first is, that they were intended to profess to the king the discontent of the nation. The event upon which this discontent is founded, was quite new to the people of Great-Britain. Nothing like it had befallen

us ſince the ſale of Dunkirk; and that ſale, infamous as it was to our councils, was not diſgraceful to our arms. It was beſides very inauſpicious, conſidered as the beginning of the war; and the more ſo, as it could not be imputed to chance, or to any ſuperiority of power in the enemy. Our trade to Italy, and to the Levant, loſt the beſt ſecurity it had, in being deprived of a harbour for the Britiſh fleet; and the piratical ſtates of Barbary muſt be very faithful and diſintereſted allies, if they continue to pay any regard to Britiſh colours. Theſe cauſes of national diſcontent were incloſed in the diſpatches which brought to his majeſty the news of the ſurrender of Fort St. Philip. But ſtill it was poſſible for thoſe, who had no reaſon to be ſatisfied with themſelves, to repreſent, that the nation was perfectly ſatisfied with the meaſures that had been taken, and only regretted the event as a misfortune; that all the public clamour was directed to Mr. Byng, as the only perſon chargeable with miſconduct; and that no murmuring would remain when once he was ſacrificed to popular fury. As ſuch a repreſentation might poſſibly be made, there was a neceſſity to obviate it; for it is not founded in fact, and it has a dangerous tendency. The people are not ſatisfied with the meaſures that have been taken; they do not conſider the event as a mere misfortune; and though Mr. Byng has been loaded on all ſides with great reproach, yet he is not the ſole nor the principal cauſe of our public diſgrace. The danger of miſrepreſenting theſe truths is, that the neceſſary enquiry muſt be obſtructed, if they loſe any of their force: and by what means could theſe truths reach farther than the public, whilſt the very men who had an intereſt in diſguiſing them, had at the ſame time power to carry on the diſguiſe? Hence it was neceſſary to have recourſe to the ſolemnity of addreſſes, not only to guard againſt what was barely poſſible, or merely ſuſpected, but againſt what was more than ſuſpicious by being natural.

IT was neceſſary on another account, as the only means, at the time, of preſerving the public peace. An unuſual ferment had been raiſed, by general diſappointment, ſuſpicion, a ſenſe of national reproach, and a dread of impending ruin. The moſt candid conſtructions that could be put upon the event, were thoſe of negligence and ignorance; and theſe are ſufficient, when ſo clearly evidenced, to diſpirit, to confound, and to enrage the people. Hiſtory will tell us what follows, when a whole nation is in ſuch a ſtate of mind. However indefenſible the exceſſes of a multitude may be, we read, that when

when they are aggrieved, especially in a point in which every man has an interest, the honour of his country, they are not easily restrained from excesses. It was thought expedient to give a direction to this rage, by pointing it at the accused admiral; and the stratagem succeeded so well, that he narrowly escaped an execution without a trial. But notwithstanding the success of this low cunning, which at once excites pity indignation and contempt, the truth could not be destroyed. Millions of rational beings could not for any time be kept upon a wrong scent, in an affair, in which the discovery of the truth did not depend upon argument nor deep reflexion. And as men who have missed their way, will double their speed, when they return into it; so a whole nation, whose zeal has been misled, will apply it, with increase of acrimony, to the right object when discovered. But the addresses, and his majesty's answer to that from the city of London, suspended the public rage. They could not, indeed, remove the discontent; that must be left to a fair and public enquiry: but they prevented a discontent which was certainly well grounded, from breaking out into unwarrantable action.

BUT these addresses were necessary, to revive a spirit of liberty in the nation; to convince those, who were secure in their power, and in a neglect of their duty, that the people are not so indifferent to public good, as to be silent spectators of public ruin. There may have been some foundation for the contrary opinion. The friends to the present establishment have passed over many instances of misconduct. They were unwilling to disturb the reign of a good king; and, through excess of candor, were diffident of their own judgment, when they could not but foresee the present inglorious state of the kingdom. The authors of our misfortunes had abundant reason to rely upon this temper of the people: they therefore hazarded unconstitutional measures; for some men were ready to support, and some were weak enough to applaud them. Great-Britain, however, has been found too weak for the support of any interest in the Empire; and the first British possession which the enemy attacked, was not in a state of defence. Had the nation borne this event, with the same passive silence with which they endured the progress towards it, perhaps that silence might have been alleged as an approbation; or at least a minister might have said, with some ground, that the loss of MINORCA is a trifle. How effectual the interposition of the people will be, must be left to time: but it was necessary, though it should not succeed; since there is not an epidemical disease more fatal to a nation, than a prevailing disregard to public good; an object, in which every individual has an

intereſt, and which, if the majority agree to neglect, they will infamouſly forward the work of thoſe few, who agree to deſtroy it.

It was neceſſary to revive a ſpirit of liberty, in ſuch a beginning of a war. Liberty cannot ſurvive the ſtrength and wealth of the nation; and theſe are at ſtake when war is declared; but eſpecially when the preſent ſtrength and wealth are miſapplied, and the reſources fall by neglect into the enemy's hands. And how can a ſpirit of liberty be revived with more decency and propriety, than by addreſſing the throne with humble complaints? Clamor and violence are not the means of reviving it with ſucceſs. Parliament, indeed, might have done what theſe addreſſes anticipate; but the parliament was not ſitting, when fort St. Philip was taken: and as this progreſs to national ruin was too rapid for delays; ſo there is not a ſeaſon more favourable for kindling a love of country, after that paſſion has been almoſt extinguiſhed, than the very moment, when the minds of men are inflamed by a public loſs and diſgrace. But many artifices are uſed by thoſe who have done wrong, and are in danger of accounting for their miſconduct, to efface the uſeful impreſſions made by a public calamity. The firſt artifice, that of denying the truth, is, if it ſucceeds, the moſt effectual. But it happens unfortunately for the authors of our diſgrace, that they are diſarmed of this weapon. The fact cannot be denied, that fort St. Philip was not ſufficiently manned, when it was attacked; and that, if it had been completely manned, the ſiege muſt have been raiſed. The fact cannot be denied, that there was no Britiſh fleet in the Mediterranean, when the enemy landed in MINORCA; *and that if there had been a ſufficient fleet, well commanded, the enemy could not have landed, and might have been deſtroyed. The facts then being too ſtubborn to bend even to the power of a miniſter, the next refuge of art is to reduce the whole, from the moſt important event that has befallen the preſent generation, to an affair of no great moment; and before the time of inquiry comes, we may hear the loſs of* MINORCA *dwindled into a matter totally indifferent, or perhaps improved into a public bleſſing. Very little of this ſort of reaſoning ſuffices for men, who would give up their country for their peace or their emolument. Leſt, therefore, the public intereſt ſhould be wholly given up by the means of ſuch arts, it became neceſſary to addreſs the throne betimes, with a ſolemn authentic complaint; and to ſupplicate inquiries into the cauſes of an event, amazing in its progreſs, and ruinous in its conſequences. The admiral, I muſt repeat it, is not the only, nor the principal cauſe. The loſs of* MINORCA *was almoſt inevitable before he ſailed;*

failed; for it is not clear, that if his conduct had been unexceptionable, the ſiege would have been raiſed. As ſo much of the truth is glaring, notwithſtanding the cobwebs which have been drawn over it, by encouraging the cry againſt him, the addreſſes were neceſſary, to obtain an inquiry into other cauſes, into the miſconduct of other men; leſt they ſhould deceive their maſter and the public, and flatter themſelves, by an opinion, that the condemnation of the admiral is all the ſatisfaction expected.

ON theſe ſeveral accounts then, the addreſſes were neceſſary at the time, ſo far as they reſpect the loſs of MINORCA. Two other articles were judged neceſſary, one of which is the complaint of miſmanagements and delays in the defence of AMERICA; and the other, the general well-grounded deſire of a MILITIA.

IT is univerſally known, that the danger of AMERICA was very little regarded, till the French had fortified themſelves upon our territory; that the little oppoſition, which was made to them laſt year, was chiefly made by the natives; that this ſummer an inſufficient force was ordered thither, and foreign officers to command the four battalions of foreigners not yet raiſed; but the commander in chief was detained here, for reaſons not underſtood, till it was too late for any chance of ſucceſs in this campaign. That this, therefore, is an intereſting complaint, will not be denied, though theſe were the only grounds to ſupport it; and it is a neceſſary complaint, for it could not reach the throne at the time, if the people had not preſented it; and unleſs it did reach the throne, it could not be redreſſed at the time; and the advices we continue to receive from AMERICA too plainly ſhew, that a complaint of this kind required immediate redreſs.

IF a MILITIA has been repreſented as diſagreeable to the nation, there was great neceſſity, conſidering the manifeſt utility of the ſcheme, to ſignify to his majeſty the popularity of it. The immenſe expence of our regular forces, and the danger to our peace and liberties from the introduction of foreign troops, are ſufficient to create very uneaſy apprehenſions in the minds of the beſt-diſpoſed ſubjects, even though no other method of defence could have been ſuggeſted. Theſe uneaſy apprehenſions have been conſiderably heightened by a prevailing rumour, that theſe troops have already occaſioned ſuch an outrage upon the laws and conſtitution of this country, as our anceſtors never tamely acquieſced in, even before the bounds of prerogative were preciſely aſcertained. If the fact is true, it is a matter quite indifferent to the public, upon what motives this ſtep may have been taken, whether of clemency or of rigorous

juſtice; or what were the other circumſtances of the caſe. The civil magiſtrate knows no power ſuperior to that of the laws: public confuſions have been occaſioned heretofore by diſpenſing with them; and miniſters have recognized, on the ſcaffold, the danger of adviſing ſuch diſpenſation.

The honourable and powerful motives to fidelity and bravery in a MILITIA, *need not be urged in defence of that meaſure, after ſuch an attack of our conſtitution by foreign mercenaries. If it be true, the precedent is of ſo groſs a nature, that it will be very difficult to protect the inſtruments of it; and to obſtruct the unanimity, with which the nation will ſolicit the diſmiſſion of troops, ſo much better qualified to invade, than to defend a land of liberty; eſpecially as a more natural defence is offered, of which the expence will not exceed one fifth of the ſum now expended for our defence. No diſintereſted man can heſitate in his choice; and the caſe is ſo plain, ſo free from the intricacies of political projects in general, that it is not an eaſy matter to miſlead men's judgment upon it. Even moſt of thoſe, who objected to a* MILITIA, *profeſſed their approbation of the thing, and excepted only to ſome part of the form in which it was propoſed. So that the reaſonableneſs of the meaſure, the circumſtances of the times, the preſent incampment of foreigners in England, the vaſt expence of importing, exporting, ſubſiſting, and paying them, and the increaſe of public expence which muſt attend the courſe of the war; all concur to ſhew, that this national deſire is well founded; and, unleſs the legiſlature is of a contrary opinion, it will be public wiſdom to gratify the people, in ſo laudable, ſeaſonable, and loyal a deſire.*

I HAVE *offered all that at preſent occurs to me, in vindication of the addreſſes, as a* CONSTITUTIONAL, DECENT, *and* NECESSARY *meaſure. If I have the good fortune to give the reader ſatisfaction, I ſhall flatter myſelf with the hope of having anſwered another public end, of having roufed his attention to the preſent ſtate of the kingdom.*

The following inſtructions were publiſhed too late to be inſerted regularly in the collection.

To the honourable Robert Lee, Eſq; and Thomas Rowney, Eſq; repreſentatives in parliament for the CITY of OXFORD.

WE, the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the city of Oxford, in common-council aſſembled, take this opportunity of returning you our ſincere acknowledgements for your conſtant attendance and paſt conduct in par-

parliament; and to assure you of our entire confidence and reliance on your future perseverance therein: but permit us, in the present critical conjuncture of affairs, to desire that you will be particularly careful to exert your utmost abilities and endeavours for detecting those, who by treachery and mismanagement have contributed to the fatal and shameful loss of MINORCA, and to the present dismal state of our affairs in AMERICA.

That you will likewise endeavour to have all foreign troops and mercenaries transported out of the kingdom; and that a well-regulated and constitutional MILITIA may be established in their room.

That the number of placemen may be limited; that a fair and equal land-tax may be raised throughout the kingdom; and that TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS may be restored, which we apprehend will be the most effectual means of obtaining a free and due representation of the people; from which only can be expected the preservation of our liberties, and the continuance of our most excellent constitution.

Given under our common seal at Oxford the 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 1756.

The following instructions appeared in the London Evening Post of Tuesday December 7th.

To the honourable Robert Nugent, Esq; and Jarrit Smith, Esq;

WE, the citizens of Bristol, who, in the midst of our present national calamities, are determined to act the part of free-born Englishmen (however others amongst us may be inclined to bow their necks to the yoke) take leave, at this critical conjuncture, to exercise our undoubted right of instructing our representatives in parliament; and hope, that (though but one of you would comply with our request, to lay our late most dutiful address at his majesty's feet) you will both think proper to speak in parliament the language of your constituents.

We conjure you, that early in the approaching sessions, and before any fresh supplies are granted, you will promote to the utmost of your power, a strict enquiry into the application of the immense sums of money raised last year; sums sufficient to have enabled us to drive the French from all their encroachments, to have procured us an enlargement of our commerce, and other great and national advantages; instead of which, we behold ourselves shamefully

fully ſtript of our ſtrongeſt fortreſſes, and our AMERICAN colonies in a moſt alarming ſituation; all of them unprovided of proper defence, and many of them deſolated by the enemy. Such reverſes ought not to be aſcribed to the chance of war, or to unforeſeen contingencies: our enemies, under great diſadvantages, could not have ſucceeded; the BRITISH nation, with the greateſt advantages of early preparation and ſuperior force, could not in every undertaking have been foiled, had all been right at home; had the adminiſtring powers of the government been actuated by the leaſt ſpark of national honour, or regard for the public welfare. We enjoin you, therefore, to ſearch deep into the myſterious cauſes of theſe calamities; and not to ſuffer the guilty to be ſcreened by any artifice, or ſheltered by any connections, from the juſtice ſo loudly demanded by an injured people.

Whilſt we are thus urgent with you to vindicate the honour of our king and country againſt the betrayers of both, we would as earneſtly repreſent to you the neceſſity of framing ſuch laws as may ſtrengthen the barriers of public liberty, and fence it on every ſide againſt the approaches of corruption. To reſtore TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, to limit the number of placemen, and to exclude all penſioners from within your walls, are, we conceive, the only means to obtain theſe great and deſirable ends. Be theſe, therefore, the principal objects of your attention, as by theſe only a conſtitutional independency may be preſerved, and the genuine ſenſe of the nation known by the mouth of a free repreſentative.

To theſe eſſential points, echoed by the voice of a whole people, we take leave to add another, peculiarly intereſting in the preſent conjuncture, the eſtabliſhment of a well-regulated MILITIA, the ſureſt and moſt permanent guard of his majeſty's ſacred perſon, and this now endangered kingdom, as thereby the nation will be ſecured at home from any alarm of invaſions (the ſole pretext for the late ruinous meaſures) and free ſcope be given to our maritime force abroad; and more eſpecially, as the want of it will continually furniſh a pretence for introducing and maintaining foreign mercenaries amongſt us, a meaſure evermore odious to a free people, and the greateſt reproach to the loyalty and abilities of his majeſty's BRITISH ſubjects.

From

From the General Evening Poſt, December 9.

To the right honourable Lord Viſcount Howe, and Sir Willughby Aſton, Baronet, members for the town of Nottingham.

WE, who are of the number of your conſtituents, declare that we had no hand in any former inſtructions ſent from hence; and claim no ſhare of the merit they deſerve.

We charge nothing, directly or indirectly, upon the king, or his miniſtry, that has cauſed us loſs, or given ſucceſs to the common enemy in the preſent war: and are fully perſuaded, that whoever is found faulty will be duly puniſhed, and all national grievances, in proper time, (if poſſible) be legally redreſſed, without the clamouring of any of your conſtituents for juſtice, or their putting you upon ſomething officious.

The luxury that corrupts our gentry, and our traders who vie with them, and a general neglect of the precepts and duties of our holy religion, we aſſign as the chiefeſt cauſe why the divine providence has ſuffered our wiſdom to be turned into folly, and our ſuperior ſtrength to be baffled: and though we believe the War to be juſt, and are ready chearfully to contribute to the proper and neceſſary means to continue it, yet we have no ſufficient ground to look for the divine aſſiſtance, 'till there be a change of morals, and virtue and induſtry be once again reſtored amongſt us.

We have nothing to fear from a king that is a father to his ſubjects: under ſuch a head, the reaſon for frequent elections ceaſes: and the licentious and diſorderly ſpirit (the abuſe of freedom) which, for avoiding a greater evil, is countenanced on ſuch occaſions, muſt, and may ſafely, have time to cool, otherwiſe it may become intolerable.

Idleneſs and ſloth among the mechanics, and an unwillingneſs to labour, joined to a licentious diſpoſition, that hath not ſubſided ſince the election, are the cauſes why the poor are become riotous, and would live by plunder rather than by induſtry and frugality; as it is, they are burthenſome and troubleſome: and for us to join in requeſting a national MILITIA, that would be full of ſuch ſort of people, who will never be kept under any regular reſtraint, ſeems to us like joining in a requeſt for a MILITIA to overthrow our happy conſtitution! a thought we abhor.

Theſe things we offer to your candid conſideration, as agreeable to the ſentiments of many of your electors.

ALPHA-

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COLLECTION

OF

ADDRESSES, INSTRUCTIONS, and RESOLUTIONS.

The grand jury of the COUNTY of BUCKS, at the assizes holden at the town of Buckingham, the 9th day of August, 1756,

Resolved,

THAT the representatives of this county be desired to promote, to the utmost of their power, an enquiry in parliament into the present most dangerous and desperate state of this kingdom, and into the reasons why, after the greatest supplies had been granted, and the most expensive armaments made, both by sea and land, the important island of MINORCA, for want of a more timely succour, hath been totally lost; and the other dominions of this crown, particularly in NORTH-AMERICA, so long left defenceless, and now brought into the most perilous situation.

On Friday, Auguſt 13th, 1756, the following addreſs of the high ſheriff, grand jury, juſtices of the peace, and gentlemen of the COUNTY of DORSET, was preſented by George Pitt, and Humphry Stuart, Eſqrs. repreſentatives in parliament for the ſaid county; being introduced by the right honourable the Earl of Rochford, one of the lords of the bedchamber to his majeſty.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

WE, your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the high ſheriff, grand jury, juſtices of the peace, and gentlemen of the County of Dorſet, moſt humbly beg leave, at this critical juncture, to aſſure your majeſty of our moſt firm and unſhaken zeal for your majeſty's perſon and government; and that we ſhall, with the greateſt alacrity, embrace every opportunity of exerting ourſelves in ſupport of both.

Under the government of a king of your majeſty's great and martial diſpoſition, and in the proſecution of ſo juſt and national a war, we are not at all intimidated with the threats and power of France, a nation this has never feared, has often humbled. But when we reflect on the loſs of the iſland of MINORCA, ſo glorioſuly obtained, ſo advantageouſly kept, of ſuch ineſtimable value to the trade of theſe kingdoms; we are convinced, that this attempt of our natural and inveterate enemy was ſo notorious, that very few of your majeſty's faithful ſubjects had the leaſt doubt of the deſign, long before it was put in execution: yet the iſland was left defenceleſs, and the Mediterranean without any Engliſh fleet there. Theſe reflections fill us with fear and amazement! and we moſt humbly hope your majeſty will be pleaſed to direct ſuch enquiry to be made into the conduct which has ſo aſtoniſhingly turned this deſperate and raſh attempt of our enemy into victory and glory, and has covered this nation with reproach and diſhonour, that, from whatever cauſes it hath proceeded, the perſons by whom it has been occaſioned, may receive that puniſhment ſo juſtly deſerved.

On Friday, Auguſt 13th, the aſſizes ended for the COUNTY of BEDFORD; at which the high ſheriff and the grand jury reſolved,

THAT the repreſentatives of that county be deſired to promote a parliamentary enquiry; why, after the largeſt ſupplies granted by parliament, and the moſt cheerful and ready ſupport given by the whole people, the iſland of MINORCA, ſo important to the commerical intereſts of this county, hath been loſt for want of a timely ſuccour? and why the other poſſeſſions of the crown, eſpecially in NORTH-AMERICA, and the Weſt-Indies, are now left expoſed to the utmoſt danger?

To Velters Cornwall, Eſq; and Sir John Morgan, Bart. knights of the ſhire for the COUNTY of HEREFORD.

WE the high ſheriff and grand jury for the ſaid county, now aſſembled at the aſſizes held for the ſame, being greatly alarmed at the preſent melancholy and diſtreſſed ſituation of affairs of this nation, think it a duty incumbent on us to apply to you, our worthy repreſentatives, upon whoſe diligent and faithful conduct in the approaching ſeſſions of parliament we entirely rely.

When we reflect on the deplorable loſs of MINORCA, one of our moſt valuable poſſeſſions (a loſs aggravated by the unprecedented diſhonour ſuſtained by the Britiſh flag in the Mediterranean!) and on the diſtreſſed ſtate of our colonies in AMERICA, on which the trade and well-being of theſe kingdoms depend, we cannot but call to mind the immenſe ſupplies granted in the laſt ſeſſions of parliament, for the defence of his majeſty's dominions, and the great fleets and armies raiſed for the ſame, without any apparent advantage. We therefore, in behalf of ourſelves, and the other freeholders of this county, inſtruct you to make a ſtrict enquiry into the application of the public money, and the cauſes of theſe fatal misfortunes, and to uſe your utmoſt endeavours to diſcover thoſe who have been any ways acceſſary thereto, and to bring them to public juſtice.

The right honourable the LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN, and COMMON-COUNCIL of the CITY OF LONDON, being introduced to the king on Friday August 20th, 1756, by his grace the duke of Grafton; Sir William Morton, the recorder, made their compliments to his majesty in the following addreſs.

Moſt gracious ſovereign,

WE your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, in common council aſſembled, humbly beg leave to approach your ſacred perſon, and with hearts full of gratitude for your majeſty's paternal care of the true intereſts of your people, to expreſs our ſorrow and apprehenſions for the diſquietudes which our late loſſes and diſappointments muſt create in your majeſty's royal mind. The

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* The earneſt petition of the KINGDOM of Great Britain to the CITY of LONDON, inſerted in the public papers, July 31, 1756.

IN the time of the moſt alarming circumſtances the whole kingdom flies to the ancient and famous city of London for ſafety: upon her it caſts its eyes for deliverance; to her it will impute its deſtruction, if it ſhould become (which heaven forbid) a province to France. The city of London is able to ſave three kingdoms. O ye ſtill happy citizens, conſider what noble things ye are even now capable of effecting! Ye may ſave millions and millions from French tyranny, and Popiſh ſuperſtition. O let not the ſyren luxury, let not the mean ſelfiſh ſpirit, the bane of every virtuous action, lull you into indifference! Conſider thoſe who are to come after you, and hand down freedom and happineſs to your poſterity.

Sacred and profane hiſtory inform us, that the divine providence often permits great evils to befall nations, on purpoſe to rouze them from their indifference, to ſave them thereby from utter deſtruction. If this has no effect, entire ruin ſoon follows; this has always been, and ever will be the caſe. Angels as well as men are witneſs, ye honourable citizens, that ye are now publickly told this important truth; angels and men will bear witneſs againſt you, if ye do not regard it.

Long

The loss of the important fortress of St. Philip, and the island of MINORCA (possessions of the utmost consequence to the commerce and naval strength of Great-Britain) without any attempt, by timely and effectual succours, to prevent or defeat an attack, after such early notice of the enemy's intentions, and when your majesty's navy was so evidently superior to theirs, will, we fear, be an indelible reproach on the honour of the British nation.

Nor

Long has it possessed your minds, that you have an invincible fleet, that you are entirely secure in these wooden walls; but the experience of late affairs has shewn, that without some considerable amendments, you trust in that which may fail you. Deceive not yourselves by thinking (though he deserves your highest resentment) that one man only is faulty; but O remember, and let it strike deep on your minds, that a whole council of war approved of your fleet flying before the enemy, inferior to number and strength; and it would be no difficult matter to prove, by more than this instance, that your navy is scarce an equal match for your rival. Think not your selves safe because you surpass in number; for if you are not equal in courage, skill, and conduct, you will soon become inferior in number, or your number will be of no avail.

The divine providence has, perhaps, permitted the shameful disgrace which has lately befallen us, to awaken you from a false security. Hear, O citizens, the divine voice calling to you from your fleets fleeing before the enemy (an amazing sight!) "Awake, or you are undone."

Your wars of late years having been transacted on the continent, and your fleets having had little share in them, it has passed with you as an undoubted truth, that you had an immeasurable certain superiority over your dangerous rival on the sea, which nature has bestowed on you for your great security, a bulwark in which all your safety consists, and by which the divine providence made you the masters. But now the time is come, that your despised rival in this element defies you upon it, and strives, as much as ye yourselves have done, to confine the contest to a sea war. Which side has shewn superior skill, and courage, and conduct, the annals of the time will tell. But this is plainly evident, that unless some considerable reformation, unless some new laws and regulations are made, unless posts of command are made the rewards of merit only, unless an higher sense of honour love and glory is lighted up, unless an improvement in knowledge is

made

Nor can we help expreſſing our apprehenſions for the great danger of your majeſty's poſſeſſions in AMERICA, by the miſmanagements and delays which have attended the defence of thoſe invaluable colonies, the object of the preſent war, and the principal ſource of the wealth and ſtrength of theſe kingdoms. Permit

made the ſtudy of your navy, you will in a few years become the ſcorn of your enemy, and muſt live in perpetual dread of them.

It is your duty, O citizens, as the metropolis of the kingdom, to have your eyes open to theſe now plain truths, to unite in one body (calling on the other chief cities in the kingdom to do the ſame) and petition your ſovereign, who has your welfare deeply at heart, to cauſe the parliament to ſit for buſineſs at the time it now ſtands prorogued to, that an immediate and impartial enquiry may be made into the late miſcarriages, and that ſuch new laws and regulations may be made as may infallibly tend (with God's bleſſing) to give our navy that certain ſuperiority, which it has long boaſted of, and which might indeed be well expected from it's ſtrength and number) ſo that it may not ſtand upon the defenſive only, or be merely employed in annoying the trading ſhips of the enemy, but boldly employ all its force in deſtroying the navy of our rival, which alone can ſave us from deſtruction. Temporary expedients, foreign troops and alliances, may keep us up a few years, but this alone can effectually ſave us.

If the large ſupplies which have been already granted are not ſufficient, let your hearts be open to make a noble free gift, equal to the purpoſe; but upon this condition, that courage, ſkill and conduct, be ſought for every where, and your ſafety placed only upon theſe ſolid foundations, under ſuch regulations as may make the ſenſe of honour and glory riſe to the higheſt pitch, directed wholly to the deſtruction of your rival's navy. Then, O citizens, may you ſecurely reſt in the ſtrength of your wooden walls; but till then your confidence is vain, and will deceive you to your ruin.

What immortal glory! what noble ſatisfaction of mind will attend that leading citizen, who will have love enough for his country, to ſet on foot this neceſſary aſſociation! an aſſociation, wherein let every view be baniſhed, but that of ſaving your country; for though the ruin may not be immediate, yet will it ſurely come, unleſs timely prevented by ſome immediate reformation. Already have we one part of our dominions taken from us; already does the enemy ſail victorious and triumphant in one ſea, in which we have before always com-

Permit us, at the ſame time, royal ſir, to lament the want of a conſtitutional and well-regulated MILITIA, the moſt natural and certain defence, under divine providence, of your majeſty's ſacred perſon and government, againſt all invaders whatſoever; as thereby your majeſty's fleets and armies may be more ſecurely employed abroad, to the annoyance of your majeſty's enemies; your faithful and loyal ſubjects being ready and willing, whenever called upon by your majeſty, to ſhed the laſt drop of their blood in your ſervice.

As your majeſty's reign has ever been diſtinguiſhed by a love of liberty and juſtice, we cannot doubt of your majeſty's directing the authors of our late loſſes and diſappointments to be enquired after and puniſhed, that your majeſty's known intentions of protecting and defending your ſubjects in their rights and poſſeſſions may be faithfully and vigorouſly carried into execution, and that the large ſupplies, ſo neceſſarily called for, and ſo chearfully granted, may be religiouſly applied to the defence of theſe kingdoms and colonies, and their commerce, and to the diſtreſſing our inveterate and perfidious enemies, as the only ſure means of obtaining a laſting and honourable peace.

And we do, with the utmoſt ſincerity of heart, aſſure your majeſty, that your loyal City of London will, at all times, readily and chearfully contribute to whatever may be neceſſary for the defence of your majeſty, and your illuſtrious family, and towards the attainment of theſe great and deſirable ends.

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commanded. Both of theſe were thought a few months ago as much out of the power of the enemy, as the ſpot we live on. Who can tell (till an immediate enquiry is made into things) what, at preſent undreamt of weakneſs, what a deficiency of ſkill, and conduct, and courage, may appear in the day of trial, when not the iſland of MINORCA, but the iſland of Great Britain is the ſtake contended for!

Awake! Citizens, awake! ſet before your eyes your glorious anceſtors entreating you to beſtir yourſelves to preſerve that ſecurity and happineſs which they purchaſed for you with ſo much toil and blood. See unborn generations ſupplicating you to tranſmit to them that happineſs and ſecurity which ye yourſelves have enjoyed! Hear, as it were, the voice of God, commanding you to ſave the land from the idolatries of France and Rome!

To which address his majesty was pleased to return this most gracious answer.

I Thank you for these professions of your duty to me. My concern for the loss of my island of Minorca is great and sincere. My utmost care and vigilance have been, and shall be, exerted to maintain the honour of the nation, and the commerce of my subjects. The events of war are uncertain; but nothing shall be wanting on my part towards carrying it on with vigour, in order to a safe and honourable peace; and for recovering and securing, by the blessing of God, the possessions and rights of my crown.

I will not fail to do justice upon ANY PERSONS who shall have been wanting in their duty to me, and their country, to enforce obedience and discipline in my fleets and armies, and to support the authority and respect due to my government.

To the right honourable the lord Carysfort and Coulson Fellowes, Esq; knights of the shire for the COUNTY of HUNTINGDON.

WE the grand jury met this 16th day of August, 1756, at the assizes held in and for the said county of Huntingdon, earnestly request that you will zealously promote an enquiry, in the next sessions of parliament, not only into the causes of that disgrace which this kingdom has suffered by the fatal loss of the island of MINORCA for want of timely relief, an island of the utmost consequence and importance to the trade and prosperity of this nation;

But also into the reasons of his majesty's colonies in AMERICA being left in so defenceless a state, after such great armaments have been made both by sea and land, and such supplies granted by parliament as were equal to the most important services.

And that you will likewise be pleased to promote, to the utmost of your power, a NATIONAL MILITIA, as the most effectual means of rendering Great-Britain truly formidable to the enemies of our king and country.

In complying with these our requests you will much oblige all your constituents, and in particular your most obedient servants.

Salop.

Salop, Auguſt 20, 1756.

To Sir John Aſtley, Bart. and Richard Lyſter, Eſq; knights of the ſhire for the COUNTY of SALOP.

WE the high ſheriff and the grand jury for this county, after conſidering the immenſe ſupplies that have been granted in parliament, the moſt expenſive armaments both by ſea and land, and reflecting upon the great loſs of MINORCA, and the diſgrace brought upon the Britiſh navy in the Mediterranean, do earneſtly recommend to you an enquiry, at the next meeting of the parliament, into the cauſes of theſe national misfortunes, and the impending danger of our colonies in NORTH AMERICA, the great ſource of our wealth and navigation; and that you will uſe your utmoſt endeavours to diſcover the authors of the calamities we are already ſenſibly affected with, as a means to prevent other loſſes, which may tend further to reduce the honour and intereſt of this kingdom.

At Norfolk aſſizes, the grand jury came to the following reſolution:

THAT the thanks of the high ſheriff and grand jury of this county be given to the honourable George Townſhend, and Sir Armine Wodehouſe, Bart. the knights of the ſhire, for their conſtant attendance and ſteady uniform conduct during the laſt ſeſſion of parliament, and particularly for their endeavours to obtain a proper and effectual defence for this nation, by a well regulated MILITIA; in the moving, concerting, bringing in and ſupporting of which, one of them had, to his own diſtinguiſhed credit, and to the honour of this county which he repreſents, ſo remarkable a ſhare.

The grand jury alſo unanimouſly agreed to prepare an humble addreſs to his majeſty on the preſent critical ſituation of affairs; which being conſidered and agreed to, the honourable George Townſhend, Eſq; and Sir Armine Wodehouſe, Bart. the repreſentatives for the county, were deſired to wait on his majeſty with the ſame.

An application from the high ſheriff, grand juries, and gentlemen, aſſembled at the aſſizes holden at Bury St. Edmunds, for the COUNTY of SUFFOLK, to their repreſentatives, Sir Cordell Firebrace, Bart. and John Affleck, Eſq; this 21ſt day of Auguſt, 1756.

Gentlemen,

THE preſent critical and dangerous ſtate to which we are too apparently reduced, calls upon us to awaken all your attention, and to exhort and conjure you, in the moſt preſſing terms, to uſe your beſt endeavours, when it ſhall pleaſe his majeſty to adviſe again with his parliament, for promoting a ſtrict ſcrutiny into the fatal cauſes of it.

It would be needleſs to enter into the mortifying detail of thoſe particulars, which have been the objects, not of ours only, but of the general indignation of Great Britain: the voice of the people has loudly echoed them, from every corner of the iſland; the country has felt and lamented the diſgraceful effects, and demands juſtice upon the authors of them: the cruel delays in ſending out our fleet, which firſt paved the way, and the daſtardly, or treacherous, (we know not which to call it,) conduct of the commander, have fixed ſuch a blot upon his majeſty's reign, as nothing can ever wipe off, and attone for, but ſpeedy juſtice and puniſhment upon all thoſe who ſhall be found, upon a rigorous and impartial enquiry, in any wiſe to have contributed to it.

We cannot but think our circumſtances the more melancholy, as we are perſuaded, a ſuperiority at ſea, and a well eſtabliſhed NATIONAL MILITIA, would anſwer all our wiſhes; and, without the inglorious aid of foreign mercenaries, enable us to defy, if not to humble, after the example of our anceſtors, the domineering power of France; were wiſdom and reſolution not wanting to direct, activity and courage to execute, meaſures calculated for the ſervice of our own country only.

The heavy load of debt, and encreaſing burthen of the moſt oppreſſive taxes, are evils of themſelves ſufficient to make us groan under them. But, when we ſee the

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uſes to which they were deſtined ſo miſerably perverted, the ends they were given to anſwer ſo ſcandalouſly diſappointed, we cannot but be filled with the moſt gloomy apprehenſions of approaching ruin, unleſs the ſpirit and wiſdom of parliament ſhall, as in former times, again rouze itſelf to our relief.

On Wedneſday September 1, 1756, the following addreſs from the high ſheriff and grand jury of the COUNTY of NORFOLK, was preſented to his majeſty at Kenſington, by the honourable George Townſhend, Eſq; and Sir Armine Wodehouſe, Bart.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

The humble addreſs of the high ſheriff and grand jury for the county of Norfolk.

May it pleaſe your majeſty,

WE your majeſty's moſt loyal and dutiful ſubjects, the high ſheriff and grand jury for the county of Norfolk, aſſembled at the aſſizes held for the ſaid county, humbly beg leave, on this public occaſion, moſt ſincerely to aſſure your majeſty, of our readineſs to ſupport, with our lives and fortunes, your majeſty's ſacred perſon and government, in the proſecution of the war, ſo juſtly undertaken, for the preſervation of your majeſty's undoubted rights and poſſeſſions.

Deeply affected with the loſs of the important iſland of MINORCA, but more ſo with the diſgraceful and extraordinary circumſtances attending it, and full of the moſt anxious fears for the neglected and deplorable condition of our fellow-ſubjects in AMERICA, we humbly approach your majeſty's throne with our earneſt requeſt, and hopes, founded on our long experience of your majeſty's conſtant concern for juſtice, that the true cauſe of theſe national calamities may be ſpeedily and effectually enquired into; and if any ſhall be found either to have diſgraced our arms abroad, or betrayed our councils at home, they may meet with exemplary puniſhment.

As we are perſuaded that the preſent alarming and expoſed ſituation of this country ariſes, in ſome meaſure,

from the want of a conſtitutional and effective MILITIA, (the natural defence of this nation) by the eſtabliſhment of which, your majeſty's regular forces may be employed in greater numbers, and with more ſucceſs, in the defence of your majeſty's ſubjects and poſſeſſions abroad, and your fleets be leſs confined to the protection of our coaſts; permit us to aſſure your majeſty, that we your loyal and faithful ſubjects, animated by a real affection for our happy conſtitution, and an ardent zeal for your majeſty, and the ſucceſſion of the crown eſtabliſhed in your illuſtrious houſe, are ready and willing to offer our perſons and fortunes, no leſs when this moſt deſirable and conſtitutional proviſion ſhall take place, than upon every other occaſion which calls upon us as dutiful and faithful ſubjects.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

The humble addreſs of the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of the CITY of BRISTOL; preſented by Jarrit Smith, Eſq; Thurſday September 2, 1756.

WE your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of the city of Briſtol, beg leave to lay ourſelves at your majeſty's feet, and to addreſs your majeſty on the preſent afflictive and melancholy ſituation of publick affairs, both at home and abroad.

It is with the moſt ſenſible grief, that we ſee one of the moſt valuable FORTRESSES in your majeſty's dominions torn from us by a deceitful and perfidious enemy; and our AMERICAN ſettlements, by ſome fatal delay, or miſmanagement, expoſed to very imminent dangers; at a time when your majeſty has a confeſſed ſuperiority of naval force, and after the largeſt ſupplies have moſt readily been granted for their preſervation and ſupport.

We have the higheſt reaſon to hope from your majeſty's known juſtice, and conſtant attention to the welfare and proſperity of your people, that the latent cauſes of our preſent calamities, will be ſtrictly enquired into and brought to light: and that thoſe perſons (if any ſuch there be) who have either wantonly neglected, or treacherouſly betrayed, the honour of the nation, may not eſcape the

puniſhment

punishment due to their atrocious crimes. At the same time, we repose ourselves in your majesty's paternal care, that the late supplies may be strictly appropriated to the salutary ends for which they were granted, the distressing and annoyance of our declared enemies, the defence of the kingdom, and the protection and support of our commerce and colonies.

We cannot but lament, that for want of a well regulated NATIONAL MILITIA, your faithful subjects of these kingdoms are not at liberty to prove by their actions their affection to their country, and their loyalty to the best of kings; and we beg leave to assure your majesty, that for our parts we shall always (when enabled) be ready and desirous to exert our courage, and hazard our lives and fortunes in defence of your majesty's sacred person and illustrious family, against all invaders whatsoever.

Leominster, September 3, 1756.

To Richard Gorges, Esq; our worthy representative in parliament.

WE your constituents of the borough of Leominster, in the county of Hereford, under the most dreadful apprehensions of approaching ruin, think it our indispensable duty to impart our melancholy sentiments freely, upon the distressed and desperate state of the publick affairs; and to enjoin you to exert your utmost vigour for the preservation of our country.

In order to this, we instruct you to make the strictest inquiry into the causes of the indelible infamy brought upon the British flag in the Mediterranean, the irreparable loss of MINORCA, and with it a very considerable part of our commerce; as well as into the source of the impending danger that threatens our AMERICAN settlements, upon the safety of which the rest of our trade depends; and steadily to pursue such measures as may bring the authors of our distress and disgrace, however exalted in station, or guarded by connection, to exemplary punishment, as some satisfaction in return for the immense supplies so chearfully raised by a loyal, but almost exhausted, people, and so mysteriously applied.

You will, sir, persist in your endeavours to obtain, as a proper supplement to our naval force, an ESTABLISHED MILI-

MILITIA; the moſt natural, conſtitutional, and effectual defence againſt any invaſion; and at the ſame time preclusive of any pretended neceſſity for foreign mercenaries, who, as our annals inform us, have more than once ſubverted that liberty they were invited to defend.

These important concerns call more immediately for redreſs: yet we reſt aſſured you will vigilantly embrace every opportunity of promoting ſuch laws, as will effectually reduce and limit the number of placemen, aboliſh penſions within doors, and prevent bribery and corruption without; it being impoſſible we can be a proſperous and happy people, without free and independent parliaments.

The humble addreſs of the high ſheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen of the COUNTY of SOMERSET, preſented to his majeſty, Saturday, Sept. 4th, 1756.

May it please your majeſty,

WE, your majeſty's moſt faithful ſubjects, the high ſheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen aſſembled at the aſſizes held for the county of Somerſet, beg leave moſt humbly, to addreſs your majeſty on the preſent critical ſituation of affairs; and to offer the moſt unfeigned aſſurances of our inviolable affection and fidelity to your ſacred perſon and illuſtrious family: nor can we doubt but that your majeſty will receive, with approbation, our expreſſions of concern for the welfare and honour of your kingdoms, which it has been the ſtudy of your royal life to promote and maintain.

The loſs of the important iſland of MINORCA appears, to us, to be not only a dreadful blow to the trade of this nation, but an indelible ſtain on our political as well as martial glory: this unprevented, though not unexpected, ſtroke, at the beginning of a juſt and national war, vigorouſly and effectually ſupported by your majeſty's loyal and affectionate ſubjects, muſt, we conceive, fill every Britiſh heart with apprehenſion and ſurprize. Yet, by what means ſoever this great misfortune came to paſs, by whatever hands the public intereſt and honour were given up; we cannot diſtruſt your majeſty's paternal care of your people, or your impartial juſtice on thoſe who ſhall be found

to

to have betrayed them. For, as we are perſuaded that no true lover of his country will refuſe to expoſe his life and fortune in defence of your ſacred perſon and government; ſo are we well ſatisfied, that your majeſty will not honour with your royal countenance and protection thoſe who have not at heart the ſafety and happineſs of Great-Britain.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

The humble addreſs of the mayor, burgeſſes, and commonalty of the CITY of BRISTOL, in common-council aſſembled; preſented Monday September 10th, 1756, by Mr. Nugent.

Moſt gracious ſovereign,

WE your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the mayor, burgeſſes, and commonalty of the city of Briſtol, in common-council aſſembled, moſt humbly approach your throne, to teſtify our firm and unſhaken zeal for your moſt ſacred perſon and illuſtrious houſe.

The late miſcarriage of your majeſty's arms in the Mediterranean gives us real ſorrow, as we fear its conſequences will be fatal to the trade, the wealth, and glory of this independent country. However, we are not diſmayed at this unfortunate event, ſince we never doubted but your majeſty's wiſdom would direct that free and conſtitutional enquiry into the cauſe of this national diſhonour, as will not fail of bringing to juſtice any perſons who have been deficient in their duty to you, the braveſt and beſt of kings.

Though we think it the higheſt preſumption to preſcribe meaſures to your majeſty in the preſent important conjuncture, yet permit us, ſir, to acknowledge our entire ſatisfaction and reliance in your majeſty's magnanimity and goodneſs expreſſed in your royal and moſt gracious aſſurances to your citizens of London; which we flatter ourſelves muſt remove every diſtruſt and jealouſy, animate the deſponding, and unite all true Engliſhmen in a vigorous and affectionate ſupport of the common cauſe, thereby maintaining reputation abroad, and our ſecurity at home, to the entire defeat of the hopes and deſigns of our enemies.

Nor

Nor can we here omit rendering our unfeigned thanks for the numerous bleſſings we have already enjoyed under your majeſty's auſpicious reign, and that paternal regard you have always ſhewn for the general welfare and happineſs of your people; theſe loudly call from us moſt grateful returns of confidence and duty; and as no dangers or misfortunes ſhall deject us, ſo we beg leave to offer our hearty and ſincere aſſurances that nothing ſhall ever divert us from defending (at the hazard of our lives and fortunes) your majeſty's perſon and government in the proſecution of this juſt and neceſſary war, for recovering the indiſputable rights and poſſeſſions of your crown, and fixing, upon a ſolid baſis, the free and extenſive commerce of your ſubjects.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

The humble addreſs of the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and others, the principal inhabitants of the CITY of BRISTOL; preſented by Mr. Nugent, Monday, September 13.

Moſt gracious ſovereign,

WE your majeſty's moſt faithful and dutiful ſubjects, the gentlemen, clergy, merchants, and other principal inhabitants of your antient and ever loyal city of Briſtol, humbly beg leave to approach your throne, and, with the utmoſt truth and ſincerity, to aſſure your majeſty, that the many bleſſings we enjoy under your auſpicious reign, and the moſt gracious anſwer your majeſty has lately been pleaſed to give to the addreſs of the firſt city of your kingdom, call for, from us and all your ſubjects, returns of the warmeſt gratitude, and the moſt unfeigned loyalty and affection.

We ſincerely join with our fellow-ſubjects in the general grief and concern for the loſs of your majeſty's iſland of MINORCA; and greatly lament the diſgrace brought on that part of our royal navy ſent to the relief of it, appearing at preſent to be CHIEFLY *owing to the* cowardice *or* miſconduct *of the* SUPERIOR OFFICER, who, on that important occaſion, might have done the moſt acceptable ſervice to your majeſty and his country, and increaſed the

glory

glory of the British flag. At the same time we highly commend the brave and noble defence of Fort St. Philip, as doing honour to your majesty's arms, and to those gallant officers and soldiers, to whom the care of it was entrusted; and as we have long experienced your majesty's readiness in rewarding merit; so on the other hand, we cannot doubt but the strictest enquiry will be made into the causes of these our national misfortunes, and the guilty, whosoever they are, duly and impartially prosecuted and punished. We have your majesty's royal word for it, and on that we rely.

Your majesty will permit us to express our greatful sense of your paternal regard, and of the great care and prudent measures which are taken for the *safety* and *defence* of Great Britain; and that by your majesty's wise conduct and vigilance, the most considerable fleet, which the French have been able to equip during the present war, has been *blocked up* by your majesty's squadron in the bay of Biscay; the *ships* of your majesty's subjects *protected*, their *trade supported*, whilst captures are daily making of those of the enemy, and their *unprotected commerce* falling a sacrifice to our publick and private ships of war.

We are FULLY *satisfied*, that the assistances given to our colonies and settlements in AMERICA, are *such* as (by the blessing of God upon your majesty's arms) *will secure* to us our just rights and possessions; and that all such *succours* and *supplies have been*, and *will be sent thither*, as *are*, or *shall be*, compatible with the *superior interest* and *immediate preservation* of this kingdom.

We should think it presumption in us to dictate to your majesty, what further measures will be requisite to be pursued for the defence and security of this kingdom; but shall chearfully acquiesce in all such as shall be established by the legal determination of publick and constitutional wisdom: not doubting but every thing will be done consistent with the liberties and privileges of a free people, and the interest of a nation which hath its principal dependance on trade, commerce, and manufactures; and your majesty may be assured that we shall, in our several stations, continue to do every thing in our power to render your majesty's government respectable, and your reign happy and glorious.

AT the laſt aſſizes at CHESTER, there was a full grand jury, and a numerous appearance of the gentlemen of that county, among whom were four baronets, and ſix members of parliament, when it was unanimouſly reſolved, dutifully to remonſtrate to our gracious ſovereign, concerning the late moſt diſgraceful loſs, the preſent calamitous ſtate of the kingdom, and the grievous oppreſſion of foreign mercenaries; and humbly to apply for England's natural defence, a duly regulated MILITIA; and likewiſe for a ſpeedy and ſtrict enquiry into the conduct of thoſe who have brought diſtreſs and infamy upon theſe nations. The addreſs was ſigned by the high ſheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen; and then delivered to the knights of the ſhire, to be, by them, preſented to his majeſty.

An application from the CHESHIRE freeholders.

Taken from the London Evening Poſt of Tueſday, September 21.

To the right worſhipful the high ſheriff, the grand jury, and gentlemen of the County Palatine of CHESTER.

Gentlemen,

PERMIT your countrymen to repreſent to you, that if ever there can be a time requiring your utmoſt attention, the preſent demands it,

Our hopes, indeed expectations, are, that you, who now aſſemble to ſerve the public, will duly weigh and conſider its ſituation, at this very extraordinary juncture. Soon will it then appear, that the levied treaſures have been waſted, and ſquandered in iniquitous meaſures, and corrupt miſapplications. You will perceive the nation grievouſly over-loaded with taxes, incumbered with an immenſe, yet ſtill increaſing debt.---You will find our fellow-ſubjects kept unarmed; while numbers of foreign mercenaries are hired, to our diſgrace, and unavailingly imported at an enormous expence: yet theſe aliens, who, in a time of ſcarcity, devour the natives bread; will they, in time of need, fight their battles? dear bought experience evinces the contrary: yet are our own people rejected, who, innately brave, and cordially intereſted, would ſtrenuouſly defend

defend his ſacred majeſty, and their own endangered country.

You will find, that by ignorance, cowardice, or treachery, our fleets and armies have been rendered of none effect; witneſs the late American and Mediterranean expeditions! You will find (O ſhame to Britons!) that MINORCA, once glorioufly acquired, and ſince no leſs valiantly defended, an iſland ſo eſſential to our commerce, unaccountably abandoned! (not to ſay more) to our perfidious enemies You will ſee England, heretofore the arbitreſs of Europe, deſerted by her old and able allies, reduced to court the aid of new and uſeleſs powers, and, by ſtrange and ſhocking miſconduct, held in contempt and deriſion by nations all around her.

Thus circumſtanced, to be paſſively ſilent, were to be tamely degenerate; for, as yet, you would imagine yourſelves free. Does not then this critical juncture require from you, more than inſtructions to your repreſentatives? Exert yourſelves, therefore (you have laudable examples) and addreſs your ſovereign; humbly repreſenting to his majeſty the abſolute neceſſity of having our natural and conſtitutional guard, a well regulated MILITIA, and of a ſpeedy and ſtrict ſcrutiny into the conduct of thoſe, who, when it was in their power, did not prevent our loſſes. Approach the throne with loyalty and allegiance; yet, at the ſame time, with a dutiful firmneſs, apply for juſtice againſt thoſe who (as it is violently preſumed) have conduced, or conſpired, to overwhelm us with infamy and confuſion.

We are, gentlemen,

September 6, 1756. your very humble ſervants,

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. J. K. &c. &c. &c.

Lancaſter, Sept. 15, 1756.

To the right honourable the lord Strange, and Peter Bold, Eſq; repreſentatives in parliament for the County Palatine of LANCASTER.

WE the high ſheriff and grand jury for the county palatine of Lancaſter, and other gentlemen now aſſembled at the aſſizes here held, return you our ſincere thanks for your aſſiduous attendance in parliament; and we beg leave to recommend to you, at the enſuing ſeſſions, an

an enquiry through what misconduct or misfortune the large supplies so chearfully granted, have not had the desired and expected effect, in protecting the several parts of his majesty's dominions, and annoying his enemies; and, in particular, what were the causes of the great disgrace and loss which this nation has lately sustained in the Mediterranean. And, in order to secure us from still nearer and greater dangers with which we are threatened, we desire you will again try, and hope with success, to procure a law for a well established NATIONAL MILITIA, which we look upon as the best and most natural means of preserving to us and our posterity the boasted blessings of our liberties, laws, and religion, which we now enjoy under the protection of our present most gracious sovereign.

September 23. Last week was held a general common-council of the mayor and corporation of the CITY of CHESTER, when it was unanimously resolved to address the king upon the present situation of the public. And an address was prepared accordingly, with hearty professions of loyalty towards his majesty, with due resentment against mismanagement, cowardice and perfidy; and expressive of a deep concern for our late losses, and for the distress and infamy now brought upon this once flourishing nation.

On Friday, October 1, the following address from the CITY of CHESTER, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart. and Thomas Grosvenor, Esq;

To the KING's most excellent majesty.

Most gracious sovereign,

WE your majesty's dutiful and faithful subjects, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriffs, and common-council of your antient and loyal city of Chester, in common-council assembled, do, in behalf of ourselves and fellow-citizens, beg leave to approach your throne, and, with a fidelity ever distinguishing this city, endeavour to express our heart-felt concern at present ills and impending dangers.

We

We ſee the nation burthened with foreign mercenaries, denied the aid and defence of its natives, grievouſly taxed, nearly overwhelmed with an immenſe debt, and, by cowardice, or treachery, deprived of that once glorious acquiſition, the iſland of MINORCA; a loſs accompanied with utter ignominy, and almoſt indelible diſgrace!

Theſe, together with the dilatory and perplexed ordering of our fleets and armies, both in Europe and America, and the very little availment of moſt extraordinary ſupplies, too fatally evince a ſtrange miſmanagement among thoſe to whom the care of the levied treaſures and public weal have been, alas! unhappily intruſted.

Permit us, therefore, humbly to intreat your majeſty, out of regard to your royal ſelf, for the ſake of your illuſtrious houſe, for the ſecurity of the proteſtant ſucceſſion, and for the welfare of your kingdoms, ſoon to direct a full enquiry into the conduct of thoſe who have (as it is preſumed) abuſed your authority, and brought diſtreſs and infamy upon theſe nations.

We further moſt dutifully and earneſtly deſire, that your people may have their natural and conſtitutional guard, a well-regulated MILITIA, which, we are perſuaded, will prove the moſt effectual and permanent defence of your majeſty's ſacred perſon, and this much endangered country.

We beg leave, likewiſe, to add our ſincere profeſſions of a hearty zeal for your majeſty's ſervice; and that we will always readily contribute to the utmoſt of our power, to retrieve our loſſes, to guard theſe realms, and to render Great-Britain, as heretofore, honoured in peace, and terrible in war.

On Friday October 1, the following addreſs from the COUNTY palatine of CHESTER, was preſented to his majeſty at Kenſington, by their repreſentatives, Samuel Egerton and Thomas Cholmondeley, Eſqrs.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

WE, your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the high ſheriff, grand jury, gentlemen and freeholders of the county palatine of Cheſter, moſt humbly beg

beg leave, at this very extraordinary juncture, to addreſs your ſacred perſon with hearts firmly attached to the preſervation of your majeſty's government, and the liberties of our country; which we apprehend to be ſo cloſely connected, that they muſt mutually depend on the exiſtence of each other.

Conſcious, therefore, of your majeſty's wonted juſtice and paternal affection for your people, we dutifully hope, that your majeſty will kindly, and duly, conſider the preſent unhappy ſituation of theſe once flouriſhing kingdoms.

We are too apprehenſive, from many alarming circumſtances, that the ſupplies ſo chearfully and liberally given, for the ſupport of your majeſty's Britiſh dominions, have been fatally miſapplied.

We reflect, with the utmoſt concern and abhorrence, that our fleets and armies have been rendered ineffectual by ignorance, cowardice, or treachery: that our AMERICAN plantations, by which our trade principally flouriſhes, are ſhamefully torn from us, notwithſtanding the large ſums allowed for their defence: and that MINORCA, once glorioufly acquired, and ſince no leſs valiantly defended; an iſland ſo eſſential to our commerce, and a jewel ſo conſpicuous in your majeſty's crown, has been unaccountably abandoned, to the perpetual diſgrace of this nation and your majeſty's glory, to our perfidious enemy; an enemy we have hitherto never feared, but have often humbled.

Our concern naturally increaſes when we reflect farther; that the taxes are grievous, the national debt immenſe; that our trade daily leſſens, though they multiply; by which, we fear, we may be too ſoon diſabled from raiſing the neceſſary ſupplies for the ſupport of your majeſty's and our country's rights.

We behold alſo, with the deepeſt ſorrow, foreign troops unavailingly imported, and expenſively maintained within this kingdom, while your majeſty's faithful ſubjects are unarmed and rejected; who innately brave, and cordially intereſted, would ſtrenuouſly defend your ſacred majeſty, and their now endangered country.

Theſe melancholy reflections fill us with fear and amazement; and our allegiance to your majeſty, and love of our native country, once the arbitreſs of Europe, induce us to unboſom our thoughts to your royal conſideration; not

not doubting redreſs of our grievances from a king, who loves to be eſteemed the father of his people.

Permit us, therefore, moſt humbly to repreſent to your majeſty, the abſolute neceſſity of having our natural guards, a well-regulated MILITIA, upon the footing of the Engliſh conſtitution; and we likewiſe moſt humbly hope, from your majeſty's known juſtice and goodneſs, that you will be pleaſed to direct ſuch a ſpeedy and ſtrict enquiry into the conduct of all thoſe who, when it was in their power, did not prevent our loſſes; but have conduced, or conſpired, to overwhelm this nation, and your majeſty's crown, with reproach and diſhonour; that they may receive their due puniſhment which they ſo juſtly deſerve.

The repreſentation and requeſt of the high ſheriff, juſtices of the peace, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of ESSEX; delivered to Sir John Abdy, Bart. and William Hervey, Eſq; knights of the ſhire for the ſaid county, at the general quarter ſeſſions of the peace held at Chelmsford in the ſaid county, the 5th of October, 1756.

Gentlemen,

WE take this opportunity to return you our moſt ſincere acknowledgments, for your ſteady and diſintereſted regard for the honour and welfare of his majeſty, and his government, and for your diligent attendance in parliament; as you thereby expreſs the true and juſt ſenſe of your electors, who are inviolably attached to his royal perſon and the ſucceſſion of the crown in his illuſtrious houſe. And, as a farther evidence of a truly loyal affection, we cannot help repreſenting to you the deep concern we are under (with the reſt of our fellow-ſubjects) at the late national diſgrace, and ſhameful loſs of one of our moſt valuable poſſeſſions.

Your joining in a careful and ſteady enquiry into the cauſes of this great misfortune, cannot but oblige thoſe whom you repreſent; as it may be a means (if rightly purſued) to prevent ſuch miſchiefs for the future.

Our late loſſes and diſappointments are the more ſenſibly felt, as the very large ſupplies (of which this country

bears

bears a heavy ſhare) gave us reaſon to expect much better effects from them, eſpecially as our navy was then ſo far ſuperior to that of our enemy: but we fear that the force of this great article of our national ſtrength has been, in ſome meaſure, loſt to us, by keeping at home a larger part of it, for fear of an invaſion, than would have been neceſſary, if our own people had been employed in a well-regulated MILITIA, for the guard and defence of our coaſts.

Standing armies, and foreign troops, have not heretofore been thought the proper means to repel an invaſion; they are grievouſly burthenſome to the ſubject, always dangerous to the conſtitution, and, in every reſpect, diſagreeable to the nation, as well as every way inadequate to the real ſervice againſt our enemies, without the aſſiſtance of a greater part of our fleet, than ought to be confined for that purpoſe. Therefore, when a truly loyal, brave, and generous people, from every quarter, ardently deſire that arms may be put into their hands for the defence of themſelves, their families, their king, and their country, againſt the encroachments and attacks of a perfidious and dangerous enemy; we hope you will do all in your power to prevent the denial of ſo natural a right to a free people.

We the more earneſtly requeſt your aſſiduity in promoting a conſtitutional MILITIA for theſe good purpoſes, from a thorough conviction, that it would have as certain a tendency towards the ſecuring the crown to his majeſty, and his heirs, as to the preſerving the liberties and properties of the ſubjects.

On Thurſday the 7th of October, at a general meeting of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of DEVON, aſſembled at the caſtle of Exeter, it was unanimouſly agreed, that the following application ſhould be made to Sir William Courtenay and Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, Barts. their repreſentatives in parliament.

Gentlemen,

YOU are now, by a royal proclamation, ſummoned ſoon to attend your duty in parliament. In our preſent calamitous ſituation, we ſhould be wanting to our country,

country, did we not call upon you, in this public manner, to promote a parliamentary enquiry into the cauſes of our preſent misfortunes, which have rendered us uneaſy at home, and deſpicable abroad.

The loſs of the important iſland of MINORCA can never be too much lamented: the defenceleſs condition, the unparallelled neglect of a place of that conſequence to the naval ſtrength and commercial intereſt of this kingdom, after repeated informations of the intended invaſion, demand your moſt ſerious attention; and, not without reaſon, fill us with alarming apprehenſions for our own ſafety. We require you, therefore, by that duty you owe your country, your king, and your God, to promote a ſtrict and impartial enquiry into that conduct which has occaſioned this great and national calamity. And we doubt not but you will uſe your utmoſt endeavours towards bringing to ſpeedy juſtice all ſuch as ſhall be found to have been betrayers of their king and country, however dignified, however diſtinguiſhed.

Trade being the natural and principal ſupport of theſe kingdoms in general, and in particular of that part you ſo worthily repreſent, we do in the moſt ſolemn manner call upon you likewiſe to promote, to the utmoſt of your power, an enquiry into the reaſons why ſupplies, ſo chearfully given for the defence of his majeſty's dominions in AMERICA, have been rendered ineffectual.

A conſtitutional and well-regulated national MILITIA merits likewiſe your ſerious conſideration, the ſettling of which in the moſt effectual manner for the real ſervice of the nation, we moſt heartily recommend to you; as we look upon an eſtabliſhment of this kind to be the beſt ſecurity, under God, of the ſafety and proſperity of this kingdom, and what will preſerve quiet at home, and command reſpect abroad, without the burthenſome interpoſition of foreign ſubſidiaries.

Conſider yourſelves as part of the repreſentative body of a free people; continue to preſerve your own, and promote the independency of parliament, by which alone the great bleſſing of liberty, and whatever elſe is dear and valuable to a people, can be ſecured to this nation in the preſent and future ages.

Conſider yourſelves called together for other ends, than to raiſe money from the people; and with that view, endeavour, as far as in you lies, that the conſideration and

redreſs of public grievances, if they cannot precede, may at leaſt go hand in hand with that of a public ſupply.

To the right honourable Heneage Finch, Eſq; commonly called Lord Guernſey, and Gabriel Hanger, Eſq; repreſentatives in parliament for the BOROUGH of MAIDSTONE in the county of Kent.

WE, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and pariſh of Maidſtone in the county of Kent, in common-council aſſembled, in order to exert our undoubted right of applying to our repreſentatives in parliament upon all important occaſions, do take the opportunity of returning you our ſincere and moſt grateful acknowledgements for the aſſiduity, candour, and integrity with which you have in all things diſcharged the truſt committed to you, and in a particular manner for your ſtrenuous aſſiſtance and hearty concurrence in paſſing the late ſalutary bill for procuring to us a MILITIA.

And though neither your endeavours at that time, nor the unanimity and zeal with which the houſe of commons paſſed the ſaid bill, had the deſired effect, yet the preſent critical ſituation of affairs both at home and abroad, the loſs of his majeſty's iſland of MINORCA, the imminent danger of his poſſeſſions in AMERICA, the meditated invaſion of this kingdom, and every circumſtance which united the houſe of commons in one ſenſe of the neceſſity of paſſing ſuch a bill, having ſince the receſs of parliament increaſed upon us, muſt ſurely now convince every ſincere friend to the preſent happy eſtabliſhment of the utility of ſuch a law.

Under theſe alarming circumſtances, though we do not entertain the leaſt doubt of your principles of loyalty, liberty, and public ſpirit, we think it inconſiſtent with that duty we owe to his moſt gracious majeſty and our native country to neglect this opportunity of awakening all your attention, and to exhort and conjure you, in the moſt earneſt manner, to exert yourſelves to the utmoſt of your power, and to uſe all practicable and probable methods for obtaining, in the next ſeſſion of parliament, a well-regulated MILITIA, the moſt natural and certain defence,

defence, under divine providence, of our king and country; as thereby (beſides the millions of money ſaved to the nation) his majeſty's fleets and armies may be ſecurely employed abroad, to the annoying and diſtreſſing our enemies; whilſt ſuch a MILITIA, a MILITIA compoſed of Britons armed for their own defence, animated by their duty and affection to his moſt ſacred majeſty, their king, their father, and their guardian, and by the love of liberty and their country, muſt render Great-Britain truly formidable, and, by the bleſſing of the Almighty, effectually enable his majeſty to aſſert the honour of his crown and kingdom, fruſtrate the pernicious ſchemes of all his enemies, and ſecure our ſhores from every hoſtile attack.

We likewiſe truſt that you will ſteadily and uniformly purſue all ſuch other meaſures as conduce to the ſtability of his majeſty's government, the protection of our trade, and the ſafety, honour, and true intereſt of this kingdom.

We alſo promiſe ourſelves that you will promote, as far as in you lies, the bringing to juſtice ſuch perſons as have been wanting in their duty to his majeſty and their country.

As to ourſelves, we beg leave to aſſure you that we are ready and willing, when called upon by his majeſty, to aſſiſt with our lives and fortunes in the ſupport of his perſon and government.

Dated at our town-hall in Maidſtone, under our common-ſeal, the 21ſt day of September, 1756.

Inſtructions from the high ſheriff, gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of LINCOLN, met at Lincoln, October 12, 1756, to their repreſentatives in parliament, Rober Vyner, and Thomas Whichcot, Eſqrs.

PERMIT us, gentlemen, in the preſent alarming ſituation of affairs, to lay open, with freedom, our ſentiments before you, and to claim that privilege which every Britiſh elector has a conſtitutional right to exert; as we have committed to your truſt all that is dear and valuable in ſociety, the regard due to our liberties not only calls upon us to obſerve your proceedings, but to point out to your notice what conduct, we think, will prove

advantageous, and what detrimental, to the general intereſt: the public cannot flouriſh, without imparting its proſperity; it cannot fall to decay, without ſpreading its diſtreſſes to every member of the community.

We ſaw, with pleaſure, the ſpirit and unanimity with which the encroachments of France were reſented; the chearful concurrence of parliament, to grant his majeſty the moſt effectual ſupplies, and to ſtrengthen the hands of his government by repeated and convincing proofs of loyalty, gratitude, and confidence: we flattered ourſelves, from the vaſt ſums raiſed, and the mighty preparations made, that the war would be carried on with proportional vigour; and that we ſhould return the inſults, and humble the arrogance of our reſtleſs and inveterate enemy; but theſe expectations ſoon deceived us, and vaniſhed; our deſigns proved abortive, or were baffled and derided; our army was deſtroyed in AMERICA, and our provinces left expoſed to the inroads of barbarians; the Britiſh flag has been diſhonoured in the Mediterranean, and the important iſland of MINORCA ſnatched from our poſſeſſion.

Such a ſeries of diſappointments and misfortunes muſt turn the atttention of every perſon who deſerves the name of an Engliſhman, and awaken him to conſider the proſpect that ſurrounds him. The ſtrange and confuſed meaſures that have been purſued, ſtill aggravate our apprehenſions, and compel us, gentlemen, to have recourſe to your aſſiſtance; and to intreat, in the moſt earneſt manner, that you would promote an enquiry into the conduct of thoſe who have been employed in this war, and the conduct of them who have directed its operations; that you would particularly inſiſt upon knowing, why MINORCA was abandoned to the invaſion of France, and its garriſon not reinforced; why a fleet, at leaſt, was not ſent earlier to its ſuccour? and why that fleet, when it did ſail, was not compoſed of a larger number of ſhips?

You will be pleaſed, at the ſame time, carefully to examine the accounts of the public treaſure: a demand of this ſort comes with ſome propriety from a meeting of freeholders, whoſe lands are oppreſſed with the heavieſt burdens; who really bear the greateſt ſhare of all taxes; and whoſe fate is attached to, and connected with, the fate of their country.

Our

Our money was given to maintain the honour of the British crown, and secure the happiness and independence of these kingdoms: to these purposes, and these only, we hope, it has been applied; and not squandered away in unavailing bargains on the continent, or diverted from its proper use, to defend the dominions of princes we have no concern with.

The last and strongest thing, gentlemen, we would recommend to your consideration is, the establishment of a MILITIA, the original defence of this nation, and the only method in appearance, that can save us from the approaches of ruin. It is impossible to support such a standing army as would be sufficient to guard us against the perpetual designs of our enemy; it is impossible to rely on the aid of foreign mercenaries, without finding the consequence, at length, most fatal: for the history of all ages informs us, that this mistaken policy has never failed to bring the people, who continued it, to certain destruction; they have either been plundered and enslaved, by the very troops they had hired for their protection; or, disused to the practice of arms, and lost in luxury and indolence, have fallen an easy prey to the first enterprising power that attacked them.

To Robert Vyner and Thomas Whichcot, Esqs; representatives in parliament for the COUNTY of LINCOLN.

SIRS,

HAving seen in the public papers an advertisement from the high sheriff, desiring a meeting of the gentlemen of this county at Lincoln; we, the justices, gentlemen, clergy, and others, assembled at the general quarter sessions of the peace for the parts of Holland, holden at Boston and Spalding, and who, by private business, are prevented from attending at Lincoln, beg leave, in this manner, to convey our sentiments to you our representatives in parliament upon the declared occasion of the ensuing meeting.

We are extremely sensible of the many great and princely qualities of our royal sovereign, and have the greatest confidence in his majesty's known care for the honour and interest of this nation, and of his good and

gracious

gracious intentions in all reſpects towards his ſubjects in theſe kingdoms; all which conſiderations make us the more deeply affected, to find theſe promiſing advantages ſo greatly defeated by the ill conduct of thoſe who, not animated by the ſame principles, have contributed to the immenſe loſs and diſhonour brought upon this nation in the Mediterranean ſeas, and by the too apparent neglect of our important intereſt in AMERICA. As theſe are matters of ſuch great and national concern, we truſt they will not be lightly paſſed over the enſuing ſeſſions; but that you, and the other repreſentatives of this kingdom, will concur in all poſſible endeavours to diſcover and purſue to puniſhment all thoſe by whoſe ill conduct we are brought to this unhappy and diſgraceful ſituation; that the people who have chearfully contributed to the moſt diſagreeable and burthenſome taxes towards this neceſſary war, may obtain juſtice upon thoſe who have ſo entirely defeated the good ends and deſigns propoſed from them.

The introducing of foreign troops at an immenſe expence into this nation, will ever be a meaſure juſtly attended with jealouſy and uneaſineſs to the people of this land; for, beſides the too great probability, that in caſe of need they would prove ineffectual for the purpoſes expected, the precedent is of dangerous conſequence, and may hereafter prove fatal to the liberties of this country, under a prince of different views and principles from thoſe of his preſent majeſty: permit us, therefore, to expreſs our earneſt hopes, and to recommend, that you will uſe your influence for the eſtabliſhment of a national and well-regulated MILITIA, as the antient and natural defence of theſe kingdoms.

We cannot, gentlemen, conclude this letter, without taking notice of a circumſtance, ſaid to attend theſe foreign troops, of a moſt extraordinary, and almoſt incredible nature; viz. that a power has been aſſumed, unknown to this conſtitution, of exempting them from the influence of the laws of this kingdom; an article of ſuch dangerous and alarming tendency! that we are unwilling to expatiate upon it, or even to believe that it does really ſubſiſt; but ſhould it be found to be ſo, we cannot, in juſtice to our country, but hope it will meet with all the reſentment becoming thoſe who are ſo much intereſted as you are, in the ſafety, freedom, and independence of your country. We are, SIRS,

Oct. 7, 1756. Your moſt obedient ſervants.

On Saturday, October 16th, the following addreſs from the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the CITY of EXETER, was preſented to his majeſty at Kenſington, by Mr. Serjeant Davy.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

May it pleaſe your majeſty,

WE your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the mayor, aldermen, and common council, of your city of Exeter, in chamber aſſembled, moſt humbly beg leave to approach your royal throne; and from a full conviction of that warmth and tenderneſs with which your majeſty, like the true father of your people, embraces all their intereſts, and enters into all their diſquietudes, are encouraged to lay before your majeſty thoſe alarming apprehenſions, which we cannot but feel from the fatal and unexpected diſaſters which have attended the begining of this moſt juſt and neceſſary war.

The loſs of the iſland of MINORCA, with its moſt important harbour and fortreſs, ſo neceſſary to the ſupport of our power and influence, and the protection of our trade in the Mediterranean ſeas, in which trade this city is more particularly intereſted, will, we are convinced, in its conſequences, be found to be a very heavy calamity. But the circumſtances that attended that loſs; the delay in providing for the ſecurity of this ineſtimable poſſeſſion, when an armament was, for a long time, preparing in its neighbourhood, notoriouſly intended to invade it; the tardy and ſparing meaſures taken for its releif; the aſtoniſhing retreat of a Britiſh fleet apparently ſent to ſuccour it, before a French ſquadron of a force confeſſedly not ſuperior; the loſs of the national reputation, and the indelible diſgrace thereby brought on the Britiſh flag: theſe circumſtances, ſo ſurprizing that they ſcarce ſeem credible, muſt of neceſſity highly aggravate our terrors, and fill us with the moſt melancholy forebodeings as to the future events of a war, in which every thing dear and valuable to this nation is at ſtake.

In this dejected ſituation our chief remaining hope is in your majeſty's perſonal ſteadineſs vigilance and reſolution, and

and in that love of juſtice by which your majeſty's character is ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed: in theſe your royal virtues we entirely confide; and, with the fulleſt aſſurance, are perſuaded that your majeſty will cauſe the ſtricteſt enquiry to be made, who are the authors and inſtruments of our preſent diſtreſs? and if any perſon ſhall be found, either to have trifled with the moſt eſſential intereſts of the nation; from wanton negligence, or inexcuſable inactivity, or to have made a ſacrifice of them to cowardice, or any ſtill worſe motive, that they will be brought to adequate puniſhment; not only to ſatisfy the juſt reſentments of an injured people, but to eſtabliſh ſuch an example, as may effectually convince every perſon entruſted with any part of the public adminiſtration, that no influence will be powerful enough to protect, no connections ſufficiently extenſive to ſcreen the man, who ſhall, for the future, dare to be deficient in his duty, or to ſeparate his own intereſts from thoſe of the nation.

Deeply penetrated with the ſenſe of the many and great bleſſings we enjoy under your majeſty's mild and gracious government, and of the imminent hazards to which they are expoſed, from the near neighbourhood of a moſt potent and highly incenſed enemy; we cannot reſtrain our wiſhes from breaking out before your majeſty, that this nation might be enabled to exert its natural ſtrength in the defence of its deareſt intereſts, by the eſtabliſhment of a conſtitutional and well-regulated MILITIA. Whenever your majeſty, in conjunction with your great council in parliament, ſhall think fit to add this moſt effectual proviſion to thoſe already made for our ſecurity, the formidable army which threatens us from the oppoſite coaſts, will ceaſe to be an object of apprehenſion; our naval ſuperiority will be no longer imaginary, but become real and effective; and we may reaſonably hope, with the divine bleſſing on the juſtice of our cauſe, for ſuch ſucceſſes as may ſpeedily oblige our haughty enemy to acquieſce in the terms of a ſafe and honourable peace; and relieve this nation from the burden of an expence, which nothing can render ſupportable but the abſolute neceſſity of the occaſion, and a well-grounded confidence, that that occaſion will be of no long continuance.

On

On Monday October 18th, the following addreſs from the high ſheriff, clergy and freeholders of the COUNTY of LINCOLN, was preſented to his majeſty at Kenſington by Thomas Whichcote and Robert Vyner, Eſqrs. their repreſentatives.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

WE, your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the high ſheriff, gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Lincoln, aſſembled at Lincoln upon the preſent critical conjuncture of affairs, moſt humbly beg leave to aſſure your majeſty of our unfeigned duty and inviolable attachment to your majeſty's ſacred perſon and royal authority; and with thankful hearts to acknowledge your majeſty's paternal care and vigilance for the honour of the nation, and the general good of your ſubjects.

Convinced as we are, that nothing has been wanting on your majeſty's part, towards the attainment of theſe great and glorious ends, permit us, royal Sir, to expreſs our concern at the miſcarriages, and our aſtoniſhment and indignation at the ſtrong appearances of miſconduct that have attended the proſecution of this juſt and neceſſary war, whether by delays, ignorance, treachery, diſobedience or cowardice, whereby an indelible reproach has been brought upon the honour of the nation, of which the loſs of MINORCA, one of the many trophies of Britiſh valour, and the imminent danger of your majeſty's dominions in AMERICA, the chief object of the war, and the baſis of our commerce, are undeniable and melancholy inſtances; under the preſent alarming circumſtances, next to our moſt humble, but chearful reliance upon the protection and bleſſing of almighty God on your majeſty's councils fleets and armies, we depend upon your majeſty's wiſdom and juſtice for the detection and exemplary puniſhment of any perſons who ſhall be found to have been wanting in their duty to your majeſty and their country.

And we aſſure your majeſty we will chearfully contribute our fortunes, and expoſe our lives, for the defence of our moſt dear religion liberties and country, and of your majeſty's perſon and illuſtrious family; at the ſame time lamenting that we are not enabled effectually ſo to do, by

a well-regulated CONSTITUTIONAL MILITIA, which the preſent exigency ſo loudly calls for, and which will prevent our any longer depending on the dangerous and uncertain aid of foreign forces.

Inſtructions from the gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of YORK, to their repreſentatives in parliament, the right honourable Lord Down, and Sir Conyers Darcy, knight of the Bath.

AS the approaching winter, if we may judge from the neceſſity of the times, and the ſeaſonable expoſtulations of the people, is likely to become a ſeſſion of much buſineſs and reformation, we moſt earneſtly recommend to you a diligent attendance on parliament, and an active ſcrutiny into all thoſe dire and fatal ſprings of our military diſaſters, and perplexed negotiations, which have brought ſuch indignity and burden upon theſe abuſed realms.

The extremity, long predicted, ſeems now to advance with haſty ſtrides. It is, alas! a truth which every voice authenticates; and therefore your conſtituents conjure, that you will be the faithful and honeſt counſellors of royalty; and be no longer amuſed with the ſubtile projects and venal ſpeeches of ſelf-deſigning men, who, in proportion as they promiſe and diſpenſe, only attempt to enſlave, and become the prodigal ſpendthrifts of our patrimonies and acquirements.

That the welfare of this country may not be totally unhinged, either through our crimes, or the abuſe of ſecondary means, we hope, that you will not only endeavour to introduce a change of men, but of morals and meaſures; that the rank enormities, which deluge this land, may not be laid to the charge and examples of its magiſtrates and ſenators; that VENALITY and GAMING, the bane of buſineſs, and the ruin of integrity, may, in particular, no longer make their proſelytes to ſervile dependence, or preſs into their ſervice advocates for foreign and pernicious ſyſtems.

We farther lament, for the ſake of ourſelves, and the illuſtrious family on the throne, that when, through the fate of human nature, his moſt gracious majeſty ſhall be demanded to other glory, that the heir apparent muſt ſucceed to ſo diſadvantageous a proſpect; we mean, to ſo immenſe

immenſe a debt, as makes each proprietor tremble, and each individual ſad.

Let it then be your conſtant endeavours, by all equitable means, to make this burthen light, and this yoke eaſy: and if a continent muſt be ſupplied; if our ſpoils muſt be ſhared; let AMERICA partake, rather than ungrateful Germany, the ſepulchre of Britiſh intereſt.

It is with no little concern we find thoſe to be the open tenets now, which formerly were, with ſome modeſty and addreſs, concealed. But we apprehend, and it is hoped you alſo will conceive it, that where the intereſt of two eſtates, centering in the ſame perſon, interfere, that the leſſer ſhould give way, and be ſubſervient to the greater. This is the manifeſt rule of right, the moſt uſual and natural expectation.

This loyal and martial country, the leader in a late ſeaſon of danger, the firſt in rank for opulence extent and natural advantages, preſumes farther to adviſe, that you will oppoſe (unleſs exigencies change) all future ſchemes of receiving foreign mercenaries into this land; and, that a conſtitutional MILITIA, with our own troops, may ſupply the occaſions for which aliens were imported; and that we may have no farther cauſe to fear, and ſay, with Mattathias, God forbid that we ſhould forſake the law and the ordinances.

We think it ſuperfluous to aſk your enquiry into the nature of thoſe meaſures which have deprived our Mediterranean fleet of a home, and trade of its protection: a loſs, that has reduced conſiderably the uſe, and good effects of our naval power; and given the enemy ſuch advantages, as Britain will ſeverely feel, as well throughout the war, as on the balancing day of accompt. In a word; ſo juſt and ſtrong a ſatire on government, and naval command, as the loſs of that eſſential place, is what this country has not before experienced. We confide, for inveſtigation and impartial juſtice, in the royal promiſe; your indignation, gentlemen, on this event, we know, cannot be exceeded. What inſtances of deſerved complaint we have omitted, your own feelings and reflections will ſupply.

October 19, 1756. At the general quarter ſeſſions held at Taunton for the COUNTY of SOMERSET, many gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, of the ſaid county, agreed to the following repreſentation and inſtructions to the knights of the ſhire.

To Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, Bart. and Thomas Prowſe, Eſq; repreſentatives in parliament for the COUNTY of SOMERSET.

GENTLEMEN,

WE your conſtituents, truly ſenſible of the ſervice you have endeavoured to do your country in parliament, by your zealous and conſtitutional conduct there, take this opportunity of returning you our thanks.

At the ſame time we beg leave to lay before you how deeply we are affected with the preſent deplorable ſituation of our foreign and domeſtic affairs. How unhappy muſt it make every honeſt and generous Briton to find, that, notwithſtanding the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, our trade, rights, and our moſt invaluable privileges are not effectually ſecured to us? for no ſooner were we pleaſing ourſelves with the thoughts of peace and tranquility, but we were alarmed with the agumentation of the naval force of our enemies, and our colonies in AMERICA were claimed, encroached upon, and hoſtilely invaded; and all this permited without the leaſt inquiry made, or reſentment ſhewn, by thoſe who had the conduct of our public affairs. — A ſupineneſs unaccountable and unparalleled!

But greatly aggravated is our concern, when we reflect on the loſs of MINORCA, an iſland ſo important to the commerical intereſt of this nation; which through the ſame unpardonable neglect (to ſpeak no worſe of it) is now in the poſſeſſion of France, our ambitious and perfidious neighbour.

It is a matter of great aſtoniſhment to find, that neither of the governors of the Mediterranean fortreſſes were reſident at their reſpective ſtations, although they continued to re-

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ceive their ſalaries, as if upon actual duty; and this, when an attack was foreſeen and expected.

It was with great chearfulneſs we contributed to the vaſt ſupplies raiſed for vigorouſly carrying on the preſent war; and we were in hopes that our national troops (ſome of which voluntarily enliſted in this and a neighbouring country, only to defend their native country, againſt an invaſion then ſuppoſed to be meditating) would have been ſufficient to anſwer the end propoſed: but we are ſorry to have ſo ſoon perceived, that an army of foreign mercenaries was thought neceſſary, who, we are told, are by treaty not to be ſubject to our law, though we know of no diſpenſing power that can exempt them from it.

We could wiſh that the propoſal for a national MILITIA (the conſtitutional land force of this kingdom) had not been rejected.

The great number of unneceſſary places and penſions, ſo laviſhly conferred at a time when the nation groans under a load of debts, and is involved in difficulties to raiſe even the annual ſupplies, is a matter that deſerves your particular and ſerious attention.

Theſe, ſirs, are grievances which give us the greateſt uneaſineſs; and we make no doubt but you will uſe your endeavours to enquire into and redreſs them, and, to bring to juſtice ſuch who have been the cauſe of theſe our diſtreſſes; that you will demand of thoſe, who have been entruſted with the public money, how the great ſums voted and raiſed by votes of credit have been applied; and this will encourage us chearfully to exert ourſelves to the utmoſt, and, if occaſion requires, to ſacrifice our lives and fortunes in defence of our king and country.

On Thurſday October 28, 1756, the inhabitants of the BOROUGH of SOUTHWARK being met at the town-hall, unanimouſly agreed to addreſs his majeſty, and deſire William Belchier and William Hammond, Eſqrs. their repreſentatives, to preſent the ſame; to whom they alſo gave the following inſtructions:

GENTLEMEN,

WE take this opportunity of expreſſing our ſatisfaction and thanks for your diligent attendance in parliament, and your attachment to his majeſty's perſon and govern-

government in a ready concurrence to those supplies which the necessity of affairs so justly required; but we beg leave, at the same time, to recommend to your strictest enquiry how these immense sums have been appropriated.

The fatal loss of the valuable island of MINORCA, the late disgrace of the British flag in the Mediterranean, and the want of timely care for the support of our colonies in AMERICA, furnish us with matter of the utmost astonishment and concern, and urge us to request your most particular examination into the causes of these misfortunes, and to exert yourselves in bringing all delinquents to justice.

Permit us to desire you again to repeat your endeavours for obtaining a well regulated MILITIA, which will not only prevent the necessity of calling foreign forces to our assistance, but enable us to defend our king and country against all invaders in the most natural and effectual manner, and give his majesty's navy a greater opportunity of acting offensively against the common enemy.

Instructions from the CITY of LONDON to its representatives in parliament.

To the right honourable Slingsby Bethell, Esq; Lord-Mayor, Sir John Barnard, Knt. Sir Robert Ladbroke, Knt. and William Beckford, Esq;

WE, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the CITY of LONDON, in common council assembled, justly alarmed at the critical and unhappy situation of these kingdoms, do most earnestly call upon you, our representatives, to exert your utmost ability towards procuring a strict and impartial parliamentary inquiry into the causes of these national calamities.

An almost total neglect of our important fortresses in the Mediterranean, of such inestimable consequence to the trade and power of these kingdoms, and the permitted absence of their principal officers many months after the commencement of hostilities, the actual loss of MINORCA, and apparent danger of Gibraltar, are circumstances which fill us with amazement and concern: but when we reflect on the great preparations for an embarkation of troops and artil-

artillery, and the equipment of a powerful fleet publicly known to be carried on at Toulon, whoſe neighbourhood to MINORCA was ſufficiently alarming, we cannot impute theſe fatal events to neglect alone, and therefore conjure you to inquire, why a reſpectable fleet was not immediately ſent from hence, and why at laſt ſo ſmall a ſquadron was ordered upon this important ſervice, without any frigate, fire-ſhip, hoſpital-ſhip, tranſport, or troops beyond their ordinary compliment, and this at a time when our naval force was confeſſedly ſuperior to the enemy's.

The cruelties ſuffered and loſſes ſuſtained, by our fellow ſubjects in NORTH AMERICA, have long called for redreſs; whilſt the miſmanagement in the attempts for their ſupport, and the untimely and unequal ſuccours ſent to their relief, have only ſerved to render the Britiſh name contemptible: we therefore require you, to uſe your utmoſt endeavours for detecting all thoſe, who, by treachery or miſconduct, have contributed to thoſe great diſtreſſes; his majeſty having been graciouſly pleaſed to aſſure us, that he will not fail to do juſtice upon ANY perſons, who ſhall have been wanting in their duty to him and their country.

To theſe intereſting enquiries, we have but too much reaſon to add our preſſing requeſt, that you will uſe your earlieſt endeavours to eſtabliſh a well regulated and conſtitutional MILITIA, as the moſt honourable defence of the crown, and the moſt conſiſtent with the rights of a free people. And this we are more anxious to recommend to your particular care and attention, as every apprehenſion of danger has furniſhed a reaſon for increaſing the number of our regular forces, and for the introduction of foreign mercenaries, the expence of which is inſupportable. We therefore truſt that you will purſue this meaſure before you conſent to the grant of ſupplies; experience having convinced us, that your laudable endeavours afterwards may prove fruitleſs.

The inſult offered to our laws by a claim of exemption which theſe foreigners are ſaid to have made, demands that you ſtrictly inquire, whether the ordinary courſe of juſtice has been interrupted or ſuſpended on their account; or whether any perſon in authority under his majeſty has given countenance to ſuch a claim; which if you ſhould diſcover, we confide in your reſolution and integrity, that nothing will be wanting, on your part, to bring to juſtice the adviſers and inſtruments of ſuch a violation of the bill of rights,

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as the only means of quieting the minds of his majesty's loyal British subjects: and at all events we recommend it to you, to oppose the continuance of any foreign troops within the kingdom, a circumstance which must ever be considered as a reproach to the loyalty courage and ability of this nation.

We also hope, that you will endeavour to limit the number of PLACEMEN and PENSIONERS, of late so remarkably increased; and at a proper season to restore TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, as we conceive it the only means to obtain a free representative of the people.

The immense sums so chearfully paid, when almost every measure reflects national disgrace, call upon you strictly to enquire into their application; and we trust that you will carefully watch and endeavour to prevent all unnatural connections on the continent, in order to preserve the independency of these kingdoms.

By rendering these necessary services to your king and country, you will give his majesty the strongest testimony of your duty and affection, and most effectually secure to his government obedience and respect.

At the same time we desire you thus publicly to accept our most grateful acknowledgements of your past conduct in parliament; and enjoin you at all times to hold sacred and inviolable the act made for establishing his majesty's right to the crown of these realms, and securing the rights and liberties of the subject; and that you oppose every measure tending to weaken that compact, which, under the divine providence, will ever prove the best security to his majesty's sacred person and the succession in his illustrious house.

On Monday November 1st, the following address of the mayor, aldermen, town-clerk, and common council of the BOROUGH of BOSTON in Lincolnshire, was presented to his majesty at Kensington, by Charles Amcotts, Esq; one of their representatives, accompanied by John Michell and Richard Fydell, Esqrs.

WE, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the mayor, aldermen, town clerk, and common-council of your antient borough of Boston, in common-hall

hall aſſembled, moſt humbly beg leave to renew our proteſtations of duty, and to aſſure your majeſty, that no diſappointments which may attend this juſt and neceſſary war, ſhall in the leaſt abate our zeal for your majeſty's ſervice: but they ſhall rather ſtrengthen and confirm our reſolutions to ſupport your majeſty in the vindication of your undoubted right to the crown of theſe realms, and all the dominions and poſſeſſions thereto belonging, to the utmoſt of our lives and fortunes.

Permit us, however, royal Sir, to expreſs our utmoſt concern and reſentment to find the gracious endeavours of your majeſty to promote the honour and welfare of theſe kingdoms, ſo entirely fruſtrated (as appears to us) by the ignorance or iniquity of thoſe who have contributed to bring this nation into its preſent diſgraceful ſituation, who have ſuffered the important iſland of MINORCA to be taken from us, attended with moſt ſhameful circumſtances, and our poſſeſſions in AMERICA, the great ſource of our wealth and commerce, to be rendered precarious and uncertain by a manifeſt diſregard to their ſafety and intereſts.

With hearts deeply touched by theſe affecting conſiderations, we confide alone in your majeſty's known goodneſs, and humbly depend that the juſt expectations of your people will be anſwered by your majeſty's directing an earneſt and effectual enquiry into the cauſe of theſe national calamities, that the true authors of them may be made anſwerable to the juſtice of the nation for the injuries they have brought upon their country.

The general ardour expreſſed amongſt your majeſty's ſubjects of all ranks and degrees, in ſupport of your royal perſon and family, affords the moſt encouraging opportunity for reſtoring the antient and natural defence of theſe kingdoms, by the eſtabliſhment of a conſtitutional and well-regulated MILITIA, which, therefore, we earneſtly hope to ſee effected by the wiſdom of parliament, as the beſt means to obviate jealouſies and fears in the minds of your majeſty's loyal ſubjects, by rendering unneceſſary the future introduction of foreign troops, at the ſame time to form an effectual ſafeguard and ſecurity for your majeſty's royal perſon, and for the preſerving the crown of theſe realms in your illuſtrious houſe, by which alone we can hope to preſerve freedom and independence to ourſelves, and to tranſmit thoſe invaluable bleſſings to our poſterity.

The two following articles were taken from the London Evening Poſt of Tueſday November 2d.

To the AUTHOR, &c.

SIR,

THE incloſed inſtructions were given to the members of a court borough in the weſt, and returned by them to the burgeſſes. We therefore ſend you the copy to publiſh, as a juſtification of our duty, and a monument of their defection. Indeed, the traffick ſome of our unworthy brother voters have made of their privileges, has brought upon us this inſult. May we in future times learn from this rebuke ſome wiſdom, ere a total extinction of our privileges takes place.

We are, Sir, yours, &c.

THE electors who now addreſs you, though late in application, are equal in loyalty with thoſe which have preceeded us. The love and duty we are convinced you entertain for your ſovereign and your country, almoſt annihilate the neceſſity of theſe our inſtructions. (How happy for the common cauſe would it have been, if the conduct of our rulers, when it was in their power, had but cancelled the occaſions of remonſtrances?) But, that our moſt gracious king may hear the genuine ſentiments of his people, and feel the good effects of better meaſures, we join with our fellow-ſubjects, in hopes that you will exert your utmoſt ability in parliament, to remove all thoſe impediments which tend to give his majeſty anxiety, retard the wheels of government, debilitate our arms, and have ſo baſely injured the honour, credit, and reſources of theſe kingdoms.

We, in particular, lament the unpropitious fate and conduct of our arms on the twentieth of May: that after the fleet's arrival at the ſcene of action, when the preſervation of MINORCA, the contraction of the war, and the happineſs of millions, depended on the event, we diſcarded all the means of inſuring, nay of deſerving ſucceſs; a matter of aſtoniſhment only to be equalled by the infatuated delay of the deſtination and ſmallneſs of the equipment.

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Other diſaſters may have owed their riſe to impenetrable ſecrecy, ſtratagem, or ſurprize, on the part of the enemy: but thoſe circumſtances, nor the elements, nor yet animoſity among commanders (a rock upon which the public affairs have ſometimes unhappily ſplit) can in this fatal inſtance be aſſigned. Hence it is our requeſt, that you will trace minutely the ſteps of theſe defaults, as well as the negligences committed in the affairs of AMERICA, and ſteadily urge to puniſh every delinquent that enquiry ſhall detect.

Let the accounts of the public be carefully examined; and beware that the arts of office, too apt to palliate and miſtate under direction and influence, may not deceive you, through ſpecious appearances and cuſtomary expedients: and laſtly, let Britons defend Britons, and only fight a Britiſh cauſe.

Theſe advices, we preſume, if executed, will greatly ſtrengthen the hands of government (as the contrary will but weaken and deſtroy;) for ſolid acts and upright meaſures, can only give duration to power.

Thus your conſtituents freely communicate their thoughts, and leave each diſintereſted perſon room to judge, who beſt deſerve the title of ſubſtantial friends and loyal ſubjects; thoſe who point to evils and propoſe their remedies, or others who either ſink or adulterate the truth and commence inglorious neuters; or become the implicit mutes of perſons (who, by conſtant ſubterfuge, are only ſhifting the ſcene from themſelves, and rendering it daily more difficult for wiſe and honeſt men to govern.

To the AUTHOR, &c.

SIR,

THE incloſed is a copy of an addreſs to the king that was lately intended to be ſent from a corporation, which ſome of the Ald----n put a negative upon, as a thing not proper to be complied with. The inſerting it will do juſtice to many of the community, and oblige ſeveral of

Your readers.

Moſt gracious ſovereign,

PERMIT the mayor, ſheriffs, aldermen, and common-council of your antient city of *******, to approach your ſacred perſon with hearts full of concern for the loſs this nation has ſuſtained, by a late infamous defeat: and at the ſame time be graciouſly pleaſed to accept our grateful acknowledgements of your majeſty's paternal care for the true intereſt of your ſubjects, expreſſed in your majeſty's reſolutions (under the bleſſing of God) to recover and ſecure all your rights and poſſeſſions, to protect the commerce of theſe kingdoms, to enforce obedience to your government, and to puniſh all who dare be wanting in their duty: and we humbly hope an impartial enquiry will be made into the application of the money which has been ſo chearfully raiſed; and that our antient conſtitution may be reſtored, as the beſt means of effecting theſe deſirable ends.

We beg leave to expreſs our deteſtation and abhorrence of the daſtardly or wicked authors of the indignity offered to your majeſty, and the diſgrace that has been brought upon the nation; and to aſſure your majeſty, that we will aſſiduouſly exert ourſelves in whatever may tend to vindicate the honour of your majeſty's crown, and the endleſs ſucceſſion of it in your illuſtrious houſe, in oppoſition to the foreign and domeſtic enemies of both.

The humble addreſs of the mayor and commonalty of the CITY of YORK; preſented to his majeſty at Kenſington by George Fox Lane, Eſq; one of the repreſentatives in parliament for, and alderman of, the ſaid city.

To the K I N G's moſt excellent majeſty.

Moſt gracious ſovereign,

WE your majeſty's dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the mayor and commonalty of the city of York, in common council aſſembled, preſuming upon your majeſty's conſtant care for the intereſts of your people, beg leave to expreſs the ſorrow and anxiety of our hearts for our late grievous loſſes and diſappointments, with which,

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as with all the misfortunes of your ſubjects, your royal breaſt muſt be deeply affected.

The opportunity which providence had put into our hands for ſubduing the enemies of your majeſty and your kingdoms, and for obtaining a ſafe and honourable peace, has not only been tamely and ignominouſly loſt, but a moſt fatal and unparrallelled blow has been given to the honour of your majeſty's fleets, and the ſecurity and protection of our trade and commerce.

We forbear to add to the ſolicitude of your royal mind, by dwelling upon another ſubject of general concern, the unproſperous ſtate of our ineſtimable colonies in AMERICA, notwithſtanding the timely and liberal ſupplies ſo chearfully granted for their ſupport.

The ſenſe of theſe great and unaccountable miſcarriages, and of your majeſty's gracious intentions for the welfare of your people, prompts us to apply to your ſacred perſon for the means of our relief: and we doubt not but your majeſty will be pleaſed to direct a ſtrict enquiry to be made into the authors and cauſes of our preſent misfortunes, that thoſe being brought to juſtice, and theſe effectually removed, the honour of the Britiſh name may be retrieved, and your majeſty's glory, and the true intereſt of your people, may, for the future, be faithfully and ſteadily maintained.

For the obtaining ſecuring and perpetuating theſe great and important ends, we ardently wiſh for and deſire a conſtitutional and well-regulated MILITIA, by which we may be enabled to deſpiſe the threats of our enemies, and to defend your majeſty and our country in the day of danger.

And we moſt humbly aſſure your majeſty, that your antient and loyal city of York will not be out-done by any of your ſubjects in duty and affection to your ſacred perſon and government, or in a firm and diſintereſted zeal for the advancement of your majeſty's juſt power and greatneſs, and the recovery and defence of the rights and poſſeſſions of your crown.

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The following addreſs was preſented November 14th to his majeſty, by the two repreſentatives for the BOROUGH of SOUTHWARK.

To the KING's moſt excellent majeſty.

The humble addreſs of the inhabitants of the Borough of Southwark.

WE your majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, humbly beg leave to aſſure your majeſty of our inviolable affection and attachment to your majeſty's royal perſon, family, and government, and that we are, and will be, ready at all times, to give the ſtrongeſt proofs of our moſt determined reſolutions to ſupport and defend thoſe wiſe and equitable views which have ever engaged your majeſty's attention.

But permit us, moſt gracious ſovereign, at this critical conjuncture, with the greateſt humility, to expreſs how deeply we are affected and concerned to find our hopes of ſucceſs againſt the inveterate and implacable enemy of theſe kingdoms fruſtrated, and the glory of your majeſty's arms eclipſed, by the total loſs of that valuable iſland MINORCA, at a time too when our naval power ſo eminently exceeded that of our enemy, and the deſtination of theirs had been ſo long apparent. We cannot reflect on this and other fatal events, without the greateſt degree of grief and amazement.

Steadfaſt in our allegiance, unalterable in our loyalty, unanimous in the defence of your majeſty's ſacred perſon and government, and animated with a juſt ſenſe of your majeſty's martial virtues, if ſupported by a well regulated MILITIA, we fear not the vain threats of foreign invaders; and moſt humbly beg leave to aſſure your majeſty, with the greateſt ſincerity, that we will chearfully devote the utmoſt exertion of our abilities to cruſh all impious attempts, either foreign or domeſtic, to ſubvert our preſent happy conſtitution; and alſo to ſupport and invigorate thoſe meaſures which your majeſty's great wiſdom ſhall dictate in conducting the ſcenes of this moſt neceſſary and important war, and for bringing to juſtice thoſe, however dignified and exalted, who by their bad council or miſconduct have occaſioned this unforeſeen ignoble and diſtreſſed ſituation.

To

To the right honourable George Auguſtus Lord Viſcount Howe, and Sir Willoughby Aſton, Bart. repreſentatives in parliament for the Town and County of the Town of NOTTINGHAM.

WE the gentlemen, principal burgeſſes, and freeholders of the town and county of the town of Nottingham, preſume to offer ſome advice upon the preſent unhappy poſture of our national affairs, to your ſerious conſideration, not doubting but that you will have integrity and reſolution ſufficient to endeavour to redreſs them.

MINORCA has been taken from us, either through cowardice, treachery, or unpardonable ignorance; and therefore we ardently wiſh, that you may be able to bring to condign puniſhment thoſe who may be found to deſerve it.

Our AMERICAN colonies have been ſhamefully neglected, whilſt thoſe ſupplies, which have been ſo chearfully granted, have been laviſhly expended to ſupport foreign mercenaries; an everlaſting reflection upon the fidelity of his majeſty's Britiſh and loyal ſubjects; who, by a proper MILITIA bill, may be rendered uſeful, and able to oppoſe all the enemies of their royal maſter, both foreign and domeſtic.

Our grievances cannot be more effectually redreſſed than by having a parliament free and independent: ſeptennial parliaments have long been the deſtruction of that liberty, and therefore triennial ones muſt by a neceſſary remedy.

The taxes of this nation are burdenſome, and almoſt intolerable; the great increaſe of placemen and penſioners have unneceſſarily contributed to this expence; we hope, therefore, that not only their number may be diminiſhed, but even their names may be eraſed out of the liſt of a Britiſh parliament.

The neceſſities of the poor at this time are very urgent, which we have but too much reaſon to believe may juſtly be attributed to the impoſition of the millers, bakers, and engroſſers of corn; we therefore beg leave to offer their grievances as a proper object for a parliamentry inquiry.

We

We ſhould not have been ſo dilatory in offering our ſentiments, had we not expected that the members of this loyal corporation would have been amongſt the FIRST of thoſe who would have conſulted for the intereſt and happineſs of this once flouriſhing kingdom; but we hope yet to ſee our antient and glorious monarch, who has been ſo long and ſo deſervedly ſtiled the father of his country, triumph over his public, and confound his ſecret enemies.

Inſtructions from the corporation of the CITY of NEW SARUM, to their repreſentatives in parliament, the honourable William Bouverie, and Jolines Beckford, Eſq;

AS you have hitherto diſcharged your truſt in parliament with an unbiaſſed integrity, it would be doing you injuſtice to ſuſpect your future conduct; but, ſo deplorable is the preſent ſtate of our national affairs! that we think it our duty as well as our right, to let you know our ſentiments in this perilous and critical conjuncture.

From the extraordinary ſupplies, ſo unanimouſly granted, and ſo chearfully borne by the people (though burdened with an almoſt inſupportable load of taxes) for a vigorous proſecution of this neceſſary war, they might reaſonably have promiſed themſelves a proportionable ſhare of ſucceſs. How little their juſt expectations have been anſwered, is but too melancholy a reflection! And though, in the natural courſe of things, there muſt be many accidents, which neither human prudence nor policy can foreſee or prevent; yet there are ſo many glaring and notorious circumſtances of miſconduct attending our late miſcarriages in the Mediterranean and our AMERICAN colonies, that we cannot, without violence to our underſtandings, impute them to any other cauſe, than the negligence or incapacity (to ſay no worſe) of thoſe, who have been too long entruſted with the chief direction of our public affairs.

We earneſtly, therefore, recommend it to you, that at the approaching ſeſſions, you make the ſtricteſt enquiry, in order to diſcover the authors of theſe our misfortunes; that they may be brought to an exemplary puniſhment, which (though far from being an adequate) will be ſome ſatisfaction to an abuſed and injured nation.

And

And, as from paſt experience, we may expect various artifices will be made uſe of, to ſcreen theſe great offenders, and elude that juſtice which they have ſo much reaſon to dread; it behoves you, at this particular juncture, to be more than ordinary vigilant in guarding againſt all attempts of this ſort, as they may be productive of the moſt fatal conſequences: for, ſhould they ſucceed, others may be emboldened to tread in the iniquitous ſteps of their predeceſſors; and thus compleat what is already but too far advanced, the ruin of this once flouriſhing and powerful iſland.

We cannot here help expreſſing the deepeſt ſorrow and ſurprize, that amidſt the frequent alarms of an invaſion, his majeſty's faithful ſubjects ſhould not be permitted to arm in their own defence.

Foreign troops called in and maintained at ſo great an expence, not only increaſe the difficulties, which the diſtreſſed ſtate of our revenues from a long ſeries of miſmanagement labour under, but are a diſgrace to a free and loyal people, ever ready to hazard their lives and fortunes in the ſervice of their king and country.

With what concern! then, with what indignation! muſt our brave countrymen, thus ignominouſly rejected by the unaccountable politics of the preſent time, behold every thing that is valuable, every thing that is dear to them, left, in a great meaſure, to the precarious defence of a mercenary army.

To remove, as ſoon as poſſible, this grievance, ſo ſeverely felt by all, and ſo alarming to the real friends of liberty, ſhould be your firſt and principal care: and as no method occurs to us ſo effectual for this purpoſe as a well regulated MILITIA, we conjure you to promote a law of this kind to the utmoſt of your power. Such a law, founded on truly Britiſh principles, will revive the drooping ſpirit of our conſtitution, encourage the natives of theſe kingdoms to exert their antient bravery, in retrieving the ſinking glory of the Britiſh arms. Such a law, we hope, will not only hereafter render the introduction of foreign hirelings unneceſſary, and thereby ſecure the great character of our liberties from any future violation, but provide us a protection, on all emergencies, againſt our perfidious enemies.

We muſt not omit this opportunity of reminding you, it is our ſincere opinion, nothing can contribute more to

maintain our juſt rights and privileges, and preſerve the excellent frame of our government in its genuine ſtrength and purity, than the independency of our repreſentatives; which, we conceive, can be only effected by reſtoring TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS, and limiting the number of placemen and penſioners; who, regardleſs of the true intereſts of their king and country, ſacrifice every thing to their own private views.

Should theſe grievances be redreſſed, theſe ſalutary laws obtained (notwithſtanding the gloomy proſpect that at preſent ſurrounds us) may we not hope from the wiſdom of our moſt gracious ſovereign, and his paternal care to conſpicuous on all occaſions for the public welfare, to be once more a great and an happy people?

Inſtructions from the bailiffs and magiſtrates of the City of LICHFIELD, to their repreſentatives in parliament, Thomas Anſon and Henry Vernon, Eſqrs.

GENTLEMEN,

WE think it our indiſpenſable duty to his majeſty as his ſubjects, and our undoubted right as your conſtituents, to lay before you the following inſtructions, as a plan unavoidably neceſſary for your obſervance in parliament at the approaching ſeſſions.

In the preſent critical and melancholy ſituation of our public affairs, we muſt exhort you to make ſtrict and diligent parliamentary inquiry touching the application, or miſapplication, of thoſe immenſe and voluntary ſupplies granted the laſt ſeſſion, and which have ſince been raiſed for the public ſervice. That you will uſe your beſt endeavours to diſcover thoſe who have been the cauſe of our fatal miſcarriages in the Mediterranean, who have ſuffered the Britiſh flag to be diſhonoured, and that important fortreſs of MINORCA (one of the faireſt jewels in his majeſty's crown) to be wreſted out of our hands either through ignorance, negligence, perfidy, or cowardice.

That you will likewiſe enquire into the notorious neglect and defenceleſs condition of our colonies abroad, and to know the reaſons why they were not ſooner and more effectually ſupported.

The nation cries aloud for juſtice, and is entitled to it. We ſhall expect, therefore, that you, on your parts, will afford your utmoſt aſſiſtance in bringing to juſtice all thoſe (however dignified or diſtinguiſhed) whoſe infamous conduct has been the occaſion of theſe juſt and intereſting complaints. Theſe ſteps ſo neceſſary to be purſued, will prove the only means left in our hands to retrieve the credit and reſtore the trade of this injured and almoſt ſinking nation.

We likewiſe take the liberty to adviſe, that a conſtitutional MILITIA, fully eſtabliſhed, will at all times beſt anſwer thoſe purpoſes for which aliens have been lately imported: and, by ſuch an eſtabliſhment, Great Britain and all her antient rights will be vindicated and defended by Britons only, without the hazardous introduction of foreign mercenaries.

And laſtly, that your endeavours may not be wanting at a proper juncture to reſtore to us that valuable part of our conſtitution, TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS.

We ſhall at preſent add nothing further; but ſeriouſly conjure you to pay a proper and conſtant attention to theſe ſeaſonable inſtructions, and that every ſtep you ſhall take in purſuit of them may be with the utmoſt deference and duty to the beſt of kings. A ſincere piety and fervent zeal in ſupport of our religion as by law eſtabliſhed, a tender and affectionate diſpoſition towards his Britiſh ſubjects, characteriſtics ſo conſpicuous in his preſent majeſty, ſhall always animate us, at the riſque of our lives and fortunes, to defend his ſacred perſon, his family, and government againſt all his enemies, whenever attacked.

Given under our common-ſeal the 12th day of November, 1756.

Inſtructions from the BOROUGH of IPSWICH, to Admiral Vernon and Samuel Kent, Eſq; their repreſentatives in parliament.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER the example of other boroughs, we think it our duty to declare our ſentiments on the preſent ſituation of public affairs, to you our repreſentatives in parliament, that ſo you may underſtand what it is we expect from you in the approaching ſeſſion; a ſeſſion that may

may poſſibly determine the fate of theſe kingdoms for many generations! for now is there a concurrence of ſuch alarming circumſtances, as our fathers never ſaw; each ſingly portending, and all jointly conſpiring the ruin of our country! and this under a prince not leſs honoured and eſteemed abroad, as the head of the proteſtant intereſt, than revered and beloved at home, as the friend of liberty and the father of his people.

When our perfidious and moſt formidable neighbours were actually attacking us, we have ſeen thoſe powers deſerting our alliance, upon whoſe aſſiſtance we had reaſon moſt firmly to depend: we have ſeen one of theſe powers (forgetful of the protection which our ſovereign, at an immenſe expence, ſo generouſly had granted her) ungratefully joining that fame enemy againſt us, whom we had ſo lately prevented from cruſhing her.

We have ſeen another power (though indebted to Britiſh aſſiſtance for her very being) refuſing to perform her ſtipulated engagements, and ſkulking under a pretended neutrality, that ſhe may the better avail herſelf of our diſtreſs, by encroaching on our trade, and more eaſily ſupply our enemy with naval and military ſtores.

In this time of danger, inſtead of arming our countrymen, and enabling them to defend themſelves, we have ſeen foreign ſubſidiaries introduced into theſe kingdoms at a vaſt expence, as if they were the propereſt troops to defend Britain, who have already declared, that though they take the pay, they will not be ſubject to the laws of Britain. If thus we provide for the defence of our mother-country, what have our foreign acquiſitions to expect?

We have ſeen our colonies in AMERICA abandoned, in a manner, to the ravages of the enemy. They have either been unaſſiſted from hence; or, what is worſe, they have had only inſufficient ſuccours, under improper and injudicious leaders, who have fallen victims to their own inexperience and temerity.

In Europe we have ſeen one of our moſt valuable poſſeſſions, after repeated admonitions, moſt obſtinately neglected: not ſuccoured in time, then ineffectually; and at length given up, as it were, to the enemy, by the cowardice or treachery of thoſe who were ſent to relieve it.

And what is moſt extraordinary, we have ſeen a Britiſh navy, not only ſuperior to that of the enemy, but ſuperior to any that great Britain herſelf ever fitted out before, loi-

tering

ering away the whole year, not so much as attempting to strike any considerable offensive blow; and, in fact, doing scarce any thing more, than what a few privateers might have done.

But dark and dreadful as our prospect is, we have yet one hope, and that well founded; for we have the firmest reliance on the promises of our most gracious sovereign, 'that he will not fail to do justice upon any person, who 'shall have been wanting in their duty to him and their 'country.' And when truth shall have made its way to the royal ear, we doubt not but the nation will obtain, not only a change of men, but a change of measures. And therefore, the better to facilitate this wished for event, and to save the sinking state, we earnestly desire:

That you will endeavour to detect all those, who, by their treachery, their cowardice, or incapacity, have contributed to our distresses.

That you will introduce, or promote introducing, with all your power, a bill for TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS.

That you will endeavour to establish a well regulated and constitutional MILITIA, and thereby enable us to defend ourselves without the aid of foreign mercenaries.

That you will strictly enquire into the application of those immense sums, that were so cheerfully granted last sessions.

And that you will do your utmost endeavours, that the British parliament may regard the interest of the British isles, independently of any unnatural connections on the continent of Europe.

We can with more cheerfulness press this service upon ADMIRAL VERNON; because, we flatter ourselves, that your authority, sir, and more especially in maritime affairs, may, with abler statesmen, have its due weight. If the directors of our navy had condescended to listen to that advice, which you so prudently suggested in parliament above a twelve month since, instead of despising it; if instead of guarding only, almost with a childish timidity, against such attacks as were threatned but to amuse, and were not intended, they had sent a sufficient force in time, and strengthened those parts which your judgment and experience pointed out to them, those parts, where, you said, you knew, without such succours, we were easily vulnerable, and therefore, you said (too truly!) there the danger really was: then sir, MINORCA had not been

lost;

loſt; then the enemy had not dared even to attempt the taking it; then the Britiſh flag might have maintained its honour; then our numerous fleet, if led on by fighting admirals, and if wiſely appointed to proper ſtations, might ſtill have been triumphant; and then, we might at this day have been rejoicing over the ſpoils of the enemy, inſtead of lamenting our own loſſes, and ruefully bemoaning our own national diſgrace.

Given under our common ſeal at Ipſwich the 19th day of November, 1756.

Brecon, Nov. 20, 1756.

Inſtructions from the high ſheriff, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the COUNTY of BRECON, to the honourable Thomas Morgan, Eſq; their repreſentative in parliament.

SIR,

WE your conſtituents, aſſembled purſuant to a public advertiſement, alarmed at the preſent unhappy ſtate of this nation, cannot (conſiſtent with our duty to his majeſty, to ourſelves, our country, and our poſterity) ſilently behold theſe kingdoms on the brink of ruin;—our excellent king (the true father of his people) diſgraced; his power rendered contemptible abroad, and ineffectual (without foreign aid) to protect even theſe his dominions;—our important fortreſſes (the defence of our trade) treacherouſly given up;—our fleets (the real ſtrength and greateſt ornament of this nation) become deſpicable, unactive, and uſeleſs;—our colonies ſhamefully neglected or betrayed;—the immenſe ſums ſo chearfully granted by parliament, idly ſquandered, or miſapplied, notwithſtanding the prodigious debt this nation at preſent groans under.

We therefore conjure you, by your affection to the beſt of princes, your duty to your diſtreſſed country, and the regard you have to poſterity, to promote, to the utmoſt of your power, a ſtrict parliamentary enquiry into the cauſes of all theſe our diſtreſſes, but more particularly the ignominious loſs of MINORCA, and the unaccountable ſurrender of Oſwego; the firſt, an iſland of the utmoſt impor-

importance to the naval ſtrength and trade of this kingdom; the laſt, the ſtrongeſt, and almoſt only barrier of our beſt and moſt flouriſhing colonies, and of the greateſt conſequence to our commerce and influence amongſt the native Indians: that, upon ſuch enquiry, whoever ſhall be found to be the authors of theſe our national misfortunes (however diſtinguiſhed or exalted) either through treachery, cowardice, or neglect, they may receive ſuch exemplary puniſhment as may deter others from offending in the like manner.

And, as luxury and gaming have introduced an almoſt univerſal venality and corruption, whereby every ſpark of private and public virtue is, we fear, nearly extinguiſhed amongſt us, we recommend to you to concur in paſſing ſuch laws as may moſt effectually eradicate theſe growing evils, give countenance to religion and virtue, and reeſtabliſh the nation in its antient ſplendor and dignity! ſuch as — A law for more frequent parliaments; — one that ſhall effectually ſuppreſs gaming and venality; — and, particularly, a law for eſtabliſhing a conſtitutional MILITIA, our moſt natural defence; ſuch a one as will not leſſen our regard for religion, be moſt uſeful, and leaſt burthenſome to the community; — and whatever other laws your own reflections may ſuggeſt to you as neceſſary to theſe great and ſalutary ends.

W

The following article of intelligence is taken from the Public Advertiſer of December 3d. 1756.

YESTERDAY the king went with the uſual ſtate to the houſe of peers, and opened the ſeſſions of parliament with a moſt gracious ſpeech, in which his majeſty acquainted the two houſes, that he truſted that (under the guidance of divine providence) union and firmneſs in his affectionate people would carry him with honour through all difficulties, and finally vindicate the dignity of his crown, and its indubitable rights, againſt the antient enemy of theſe kingdoms: that the ſuccour and preſervation of AMERICA could not but conſtitute a main object of his attention and ſolicitude; and that the growing dangers of our colonies from our late loſſes, demanded reſolutions of vigour and diſpatch: that an adequate defence at home

beloved